

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVI.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 19th September, at Hankow, the wife of E. T. PYM, I.M.C., of a son.

On the 27th September, at 78, Range Road, Shanghai, the wife of the Rev. HARRY BARTON, C.M.S. Shao-hyung, of a daughter.

On the 20th September, at Hongkong, the wife of S. J. GRAINGER, I.M.C., Lappa, at Macao, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 17th September, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. F. Symons, B.A., PHILIP LOCKWOOD JONES, son of C. J. JONES, Liverpool, to MARGARET E. CHAMBERLAIN, third daughter of C. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Riddings, Derbyshire, England.

On the 24th September, at the Kakchich Chapel, Swatow, by the Rev. P. J. MacLagan, M.A., FLORENCE ANNIE CASS, widow of the late FRANCIS CASS, of Amoy, to ERNEST HENRY DE STE. CROIX, son of the late C. W. DE STE. CROIX, I.M.C.

On the 27th September, at St. Joseph's Church, by the Rev. Father d'Agustini, GEORGE WILLIAM GEGG, of Fareham, Hants, to EDITH JOHNSON, eldest daughter of Mrs. LEE, and a Creole of Trinidad, W.I. West Indian papers please copy.

DEATHS.

On the 18th September, at Tokyo, A. W. THOMPS N, aged 78 years.

On the 19th September, in London, AGNES, the wife of W. ALLEN, General Hospital, Singapore.

On the 20th September, at the Singapore General Hospital, JOHN COLIN CAMPBELL, Superintendent of the Muar State Railway, aged 52 years.

On the 22nd September, at 68, Chapoo Road, Shanghai, FILEX VICENTE DA COSTA, the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. DA CUNHA.

On the 25th September, at the Shanghai General Hospital, AMELIA, relict of the late WILLIAM ORTWIN, aged 47 years.

On the 21st September, at Penang, ALEXANDER HORATIO STEPHENS, of McAlister & Co., Singapore and Penang, aged 34 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 3rd September arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 1st October (28 days); the German mail of the 2nd September arrived, per H. A. L. steamer *Hamburg*, on the 3rd October (30 days); and the French mail of the 5th September arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, on the 4th October (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H.E. Viceroy Tsen arrived in Chengtu on the 25th ult. and took over the seals of office next day.

Cholera is causing terrible ravages in the Philippine Islands. As many as a thousand cases are occurring daily in some towns.

M. Podsiueff, who is commissioned by the Russian Government to arrange the Russo-Chinese Treaty of Commerce, is now in Shanghai.

The St. Petersburg railway conference has resolved to admit the Eastern China Railway into the Russian railways direct passenger and goods-traffic system.

On the 23rd ult. the Chinese Emperor and the Empress Dowager received Admiral Geissler, Commander of the German Squadron, and Baron von der Goltz, German *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking, in the Summer Palace, where, with the only exception of H. R. H. Prince Henry of Prussia, no foreigner had until now an audience.

The following telegram from Szechuen has been received by the Rev. Dr. Hykes of Shanghai:—"Chengtu, 20th September.—The general situation is doubtful. A large area of the country is seriously disturbed. The city excitement has abated, and the officials are on the alert. The new Viceroy has just arrived. Missionaries and their property are under protection." A later Japanese telegram from Chengtu is more encouraging.

The Russian Minister of Finances, M. Witte, has now left Europe for Manchuria. The *Globe's* St. Petersburg correspondent learns from a reliable source that M. de Witte's tour is connected with the raising of a loan in the United States, whose financiers at present are disinclined to make such an investment, owing to the closed-door policy of Russia in the Far East. M. de Witte is studying the possibility of making concessions which will probably result in the conclusion of a commercial treaty between Russia and the United States.

The *Débats* (Paris) warns England against letting Japan get too solid a hold in Siam, and adds that England should ask herself whether she is not fostering a fox who will devour her Asiatic fowls.

The Anglo-Russian Land Dispute Commission is now sitting at Tientsin. The Commissioners are Mr. Hopkins, British Consul-General, and Mr. Laptew, Russian Consul. Mr. Dotring is Referee.

In its Notes on Native Affairs the *N.C. Daily News* says:—A Peking despatch to hand reports that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has consented to the petition of certain Portuguese subjects to construct a railway between Macao and Canton. A request by the Portuguese Minister for an extension of the Portuguese Settlement of Macao has, however, been refused point-blank by Prince Ching, who declines to discuss the matter.

Our Shanghai correspondent telegraphed under date 29th September:—The ceremony at Tientsin railway station this morning was brief but impressive. Colonel Browne, the Military Director, handed over the line to Managing Director Liang in the presence of Hu Yu-mei and Chinese and British guards of honour. The National Anthems were played while the flags were exchanged. Mr. Kinder warmly congratulated the British Minister. He dined with the Viceroy to-night.

Prince Tsai Chen, Special Ambassador to the Coronation, returned to Peking from London on the 25th ult., having come to China via the United States and Japan. The Prince was received by their Majesties in special audience on the morning of the 26th ult., His Highness's father Prince Ching, acting the part of announcer for his son. Prince Tsai Chen gave a résumé of what he had seen and experienced during his mission abroad, and it is reported that their Majesties were quite pleased at the intelligent replies the youthful Prince made to their enquiries on the state of affairs in foreign countries, etc.

"The *Shipping Gazette* states that there is strong ground for believing that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company will shortly abandon London as the home port. Four vessels are now being built which are unable to enter the Albert Dock. It is understood that the directors favour Southampton as the home terminus." The four vessels mentioned in the above telegram, which was despatched by our London correspondent on the 27th ultimo, as now building are presumably the *Moldavia*, *Mongolia*, *Marmora* and *Macedonia*, each of 10,000 tons register and 11,000 effective h.p. At present the largest of the P. & O. fleet is the *Persia*, the registered tonnage of which is 7,951. No information is obtainable locally as to the proposed abandonment of London as the Company's home port. If it does come to pass it will only be another illustration of the deterioration of the Thames under the rule of the present inept Conservancy Board. In the circumstances, the recommendations of the Royal Commission, which recently sat upon the subject and proposed a sweeping re-constitution of the Board, cannot be too soon carried into execution. This matter was dealt with at length in our leading article of the 3rd ultimo.

THE MONROE AND ANOTHER DOCTRINE.

(Daily Press, 4th October).

Something like a sensation was produced in Europe by President ROOSEVELT's speech at Augusta, Maine, at the end of August. Yet there was nothing sensational about the speech, and the effect it had, above all in Germany and Austria, seems due to a total misreading of the United States President's meaning. The *Neue Freie Press* of Vienna, with its talk of "a mammoth trumpet-blast," "the thunderbolt," "ROOSEVELT's bony fist shaken in England's face," is only typical of the attitude of a number of the Austro-German newspapers. The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* puts it down to "the *mot d'ordre* given to the German Press respecting the United States and Great Britain, to set these two Powers by the ears." If this be so, the scheme has entirely failed, for the British and American Press did not rise to the occasion as desired. Mr. CHAUNCEY DEPEW, the noted after-dinner orator, probably made an approximately right expression on the situation when he said that England regards the MONROE doctrine as a wise policy, while the Continent of Europe spurns it as insolent, arrogant, and untenable. There is, we are well aware, a small section in England which by no means looks with favour on the late developments of the MONROE doctrine; some indeed even see the "bony fist" of President ROOSEVELT, as pictured by the *Neue Freie Press*. But such views find no sympathy in the present Government and even less among the Opposition of to-day. The *Times* in a leading article on President ROOSEVELT's Augusta speech put forward the view of Monroeism—as the word has been already coined we need not apologise for its use—which is most widely held at home. As the doctrine is defined by President ROOSEVELT, says the *Times*, "it is 'a policy to which this country has no right to take exception, and which we have no interest in obstructing. The title to 'our own possessions on the American continent and our right to colonise them are not, and cannot be, called in question by anybody. We have no reason to object to the protest of the United States against the acquisition of new territorial rights in North or South America by any European Powers. That is not a principle of international law, but a question of policy, and one upon which every Government has an indisputable claim to take its own line.'"

The interest taken by the Far East in the MONROE doctrine is only indirect. As far as the doctrine affects Great Britain, it may arouse a certain concern in all British colonies, but this concern is hardly personal. There is, however, an idea analogous to that of the MONROE doctrine which calls for the attention at least of all British possessions in this part of the world, and that is the attitude of the Australian Commonwealth with respect to the neighbouring Pacific islands. Nor is this exactly a novel idea. It is over twenty years old. The contemplated German annexation of New Guinea at the beginning of the "eighties" first gave it definite form. The British Government was then indifferent to such a proceeding on the part of Germany, but not so the Australian colonists. Queensland went so far as to send agents to take possession of New Guinea in the name of Great Britain, and the other colonies approved this step. Though the home Government had no sympathy with the Australians' action, it was forced by the

pressure brought to bear on it to consent to annex South-eastern New Guinea and the Louisiade Archipelago. The most recent writer on this subject, Mr. A. R. COLQUHOUN, says in his book *The Mastery of the Pacific*:—"It is usually said that the desire 'to protect the natives of New Guinea against foreigners was the chief motive for British annexation, but the real reason was the pressure brought to bear by the Australian colonists, and the story is an instructive one as showing the divergence of view in such a question between the colonies and the mother country. Now that Australia is practically free to pursue an independent policy we may expect some very different line of action. The New Guinea question, coupled with that of New Caledonia, first gathered the colonies into a Federal Council, and helped greatly to pave the way for the Commonwealth." As we have seen recently, the question of the New Hebrides, at present under joint British and French protection, is anxiously regarded by the colonists, and any disposition at home to allow French energy to go too far will certainly be checked by the Australians' vigilance. The growth of Australia has entirely altered the situation in south-western Pacific waters, and it must be the voices of Australia and New Zealand that will settle the destiny of that part of the Ocean, as certainly as the United States must be the predominant voice on the American continent. And as the MONROE doctrine, interpreted in its best sense, makes not for aggression on the part of the United States but against aggression by European Powers on the search for new colonies, so the Australian version of the idea will not seek for the violent dispossession of those who are already established but for the prevention of further land-grabbing in the neighbourhood of the great Southern continent. We do not believe the day to be far distant when the Australians will enunciate their policy in this respect as clearly as the United States have put forward that doctrine which owes its origin to and takes its name from Mr. MONROE.

MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 30th September.)

The news of the actual handing over to China by Russia of the Newchwang railway, as the section of the line up to now in Russian possession may be called, will be received with relief, for it seemed almost certain that some new obstacle would be found to lie in the way of the fulfilment of the promise. A Peking telegram less than a fortnight old reported that M. LESSAR, the Russian Minister, had put in a claim, consisting of seven clauses, for compensation for the restoration of the line; that the Chinese Government failed to forward an immediate reply and Russia thereupon suggested that the restoration of the railway should be deferred until she got a reply; and that the Chinese subsequently acceded to the Russian demand and it was arranged that the document should be signed on the 7th October. Of course this story might be true, but the fact that the railway was restored to China on the 26th instant is against it, for it is unlike Russian policy to give up the substance for the shadow of a promise. Moreover, the restoration of the line from Peking was one of the conditions which the Powers granted to China when peace was made. The handing over of the British section yesterday, described in our Shanghai telegram to-day, should complete the incident and remove a possible source of friction between the Allies of 1900. The

next step will be the evacuation, by the 8th October, of Lower Manchuria, which Russia has just reaffirmed her intention of carrying out. Whoever it was that started the tale some months ago of Count CASSINI informing the Washington Government that Manchuria's evacuation had already been completed, was a humorist whose object, if any, it is impossible to divine. Russia is only bound by her agreement with China—the last of the Manchurian Conventions and the only genuine one—to withdraw her troops in the south-western part of Moukden as far as the Liao River by the eighth day of next month. The first proof of Russia's good faith will be anxiously awaited. We have always been among those who have preferred to wait for Russia's performances rather than, like the champions of close Anglo-Russian friendship, to be charmed at her promises. The past annals of Russian history do not furnish any ground for the amiable expectations of the pro-Russians; very much to the contrary. Nor have there been seen of late indications of a revolution in Russian methods. The honest retrocession of the specified portion of Manchuria on the 8th proximo would do something to rehabilitate the damaged name of Russian diplomacy, though it is true that all along there has been a hint of secret conditions behind the Manchurian agreement. It must be remembered, too, that in spite of the strength of Russia's position in the actual possession of Manchuria in retaining the territory in defiance of the other Powers interested she would have had a far more difficult task than any in the previous record of her advance across Northern Asia. In 1860, General IGNATIEFF, when he negotiated the cession of Primorsk, had but an insignificant opponent to deal with. Practically Lord Kuxin was a nonentity, whose only anxiety was to get away from his post with all the speed he could, and he troubled himself but little as to what his polite fellow-diplomat was about; but even so, the Russian ministry of the day would at once have repudiated IGNATIEFF had the slightest complaint been made. So in 1895, when Russia presumed to dictate to Japan the retrocession of Liaotung, she had already made affairs square with Germany; and the foreign councils of England were guided by the weak-kneed and impressionable Lord KIMBERLEY. She is confronted by different opponents in 1902, and Count LAMSDORFF has had a task very dissimilar from his predecessors'. The advent into the circle of the Great Powers of Japan, whose interest in Manchuria can in no way be denied, and the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese Agreement alone have radically altered the whole balance of affairs in North-East Asia. There are, it is true, already both in Britain and Japan people who, never having liked the Alliance, are seeking to make out that it is rapidly lessening in popularity. Their motives, however, are too plain for their statements to do harm. The effect of the Anglo-Japanese union is as strong as ever, and it is safe to say that a very different state of things would be prevailing now in the North, had the agreement never been brought about.

The Japanese trade commissioners have completed a four months' tour in South Africa, and will sail shortly for England. They anticipate the establishment of a large trade in Japanese goods, especially at Johannesburg. The obstacle being the absence of direct shipping facilities, the Japanese Government will, on receipt of the commissioners' report, arrange this matter. Only articles suited to the market will be sent out.

THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.

(Daily Press, 2nd October.)

The most interesting feature in the scheme for a new dock laid by the Chairman of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, before the shareholders is undoubtedly the conditions under which the Government propose to grant a lease of the necessary land for the purpose, at least so far as the general public are concerned. With the cost of the proposed dock the outside public have nothing to do, but they would certainly like to know how the local Government redeems the pledge held out some years ago to do what it could to encourage and foster industrial enterprise. Let us see, therefore, the manner in which they go about the task. Two offers made by the Dock Company to the Admiralty, in 1895 and 1897 respectively, to construct a large new graving dock, on condition of receiving a free grant towards the cost, having both been declined without any counter-proposal being made, the project for a new dock to be erected at the sole cost of the Company was mooted in 1899 and negotiations opened with the Colonial Government for a piece of ground for the purpose. Now was the opportunity for the Government to exhibit its liberality and prove its desire to aid industrial enterprise in the Colony. This was done in a striking manner. After two years of discussion, otherwise haggling and procrastination, the Government at length agreed to lease the ground—or rather the land and water—required, on the following terms:—The area, comprising 1,388,812 square feet, is to be granted on a lease of ninety-nine years for a premium of 27½ cents per square foot, at a Crown rent of \$350 per acre, or \$10,920 per annum, the lease to be renewable for one term of a like period on a reassessed Crown rent. The lease is to be hampered with no less than eleven special conditions, some of which involve outlay and others great responsibility. To begin with, the Admiralty, although not contributing a cent towards the expense of making the new dock, is to be specially considered. The plans are to be submitted to the Naval Authorities and every endeavour made to meet their wishes; the dock is to be capable of accommodating a first-class battleship; the Company are to commence its construction at once and complete it as soon as possible; and, finally, His Majesty's ships are to have prior right of entrance to the dock over all vessels in time of war or whenever the senior Naval officer considers their safety necessitates it. The Military Authorities have then to be considered. The Company are to construct an approach road with suitable pier for access to Kowloon East Battery in a position satisfactory to the Military authorities. The Company is also to incur the cost of moving Military telephone-cables which may be made necessary by the transfer of land, including the erection of cable-huts and digging up and burying land-cables, the latter to be laid as far as possible along the new road to Kowloon East Battery. The War Department is even to be relieved of responsibility for any damage caused by firing by the battery just named. The local Government is also to receive a special concession, in the shape of a strip of land fifty feet in width adjoining and to the east of Gillies Avenue and extending from the Harbour to Buikley Street. There is also a proviso that the Company is to bear the expense of forming a new cable reserve and shifting the existing

cables thereto. The reclamation to be completed in five years from date of purchase.

It must be conceded that for an administration anxious to encourage the extension of local industries the Government of Sir HENRY BLAKE seems to have developed a talent for driving a hard bargain. Some few years ago the Hongkong Government—before the advent of Mr. ORMSBY, who was very keen on selling land—sold to the Green Island Cement Company, Limited, the site of its present works at Hok-On for two cents per square foot. When two or three years later Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE applied for a large area between Quarry Bay and Shaokwan for the purposes of a dock and shipyard, part of the lots being marine and part inland, but involving costly and extensive reclamation, the Government advanced its rate to ten cents per square foot for a term of only 99 years, with the option of another similar period on reassessment. Even this rate was only obtained with great difficulty, and not until a broad hint had been given that the utmost limits of the purchasers had been reached. Considering that the fifty-two acres thus acquired were totally unproductive and a large proportion of them under water, and that they were to be turned into a great revenue-producing district, the Government could not be accused of any undue liberality in their dealings with the enterprising house of Taikoo. What shall be said of their attempt to squeeze the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company to the tune of \$383,812 for a site for a dock, which they stipulate is to be primarily always at the disposal of the Admiralty, besides further weighting the lease with other burdensome conditions? The area to be leased is for the most part under water, and it would have to be reclaimed at great cost, and for some four years at least the heavy Crown rent (amounting for that term to \$43,680) would have to be paid while the property was wholly unproductive. Meanwhile the loss of interest on the purchase-money would foot up to the respectable sum of \$100,245.98. The net cost of the land to the Dock Company before it could be made to yield a cent of income would be, including interest on the Crown rent, \$532,807.02. It must be admitted that these figures do not suggest any sentimental partiality in favour of industrial enterprises on the part of the Government. On the contrary, it would occur to the impartial onlooker that the Government, taking full advantage of the apparent necessity of the Dock Company, had determined to exercise its power to the utmost, and to drive the hardest bargain possible. This is clearly what they have done. In doing it, however, like many other skinflints, they will find they have only overreached themselves and betrayed the interests of the tax-payers. Had they, when negotiations were first opened for the site, hastened to concede it at a cost of three cents per square foot—which would have been ample, considering the conditions attached to the lease—they would have gained the substantial sum of \$41,664 for the Treasury, and have soon been able, in addition to the Crown rent, to have collected a large addition to revenue from municipal rates. This opportunity has been lost. The time has now gone by for constructing the dock, owing mainly to the Government's greed and procrastination, and the outrageous proposal now placed before them will be indignantly rejected by the shareholders. At least so we believe. It passes our comprehension, moreover, how men of business like the directors of the Hongkong and Whampoa

Dock Company, Limited, could ever for a moment have hearkened to such a proposal or agreed to submit it to the shareholders.

THE BRITISH CONSULAR SERVICE.

(Daily Press, 3rd October.)

A correspondent at Constantinople wrote to the *Times* recently, inspired by the debate in the British House of Commons on the Diplomatic and Consular services. In that debate, he said, the speakers appeared to be of opinion that our Ambassadors and Consuls are responsible for the decline or increase of British commerce—altogether an erroneous idea, he added, for it is not commercial assistance that the British manufacturer, trader, shipowner, &c., require from their Consuls abroad, but rather official assistance and protection. The distinction is clear enough, but we do not imagine that any of the speakers in the House of Commons actually wanted British Consuls to advertise or otherwise push British goods, which is what commercial assistance seems to mean. The argument of those who complained in Parliament was fair enough, that British Ambassadors and Consuls do not as a rule give the same amount of support and protection which other countries' Ambassadors and Consuls give to their nationals. This is not necessarily because the British representatives are in themselves less able men. The correspondent whom we have mentioned above makes the excuse for them that unfortunately their power is very limited, and they cannot render the assistance often asked for by British subjects or those representing British interests without having first to refer to their Ambassadors; then comes the deadlock, he says, as Ambassadors, having to consider so many political questions, are very loth to press commercial questions, which are always treated as of secondary importance; and thus commercial matters are, as a rule, sacrificed to political interests. But, it may well be asked, why should British consular representatives be less able to help their compatriots than other Consuls are to help theirs? That they are less prompt in doing so can be shown by instances from almost any part of the world. This is the real strength of the grievance which is felt by British commercial men, and it most certainly demands attention. The debate in the House of Commons, though some of the speakers may have missed the actual point, was useful in calling public notice to a matter which has been ventilated in a less general way for long without any perceptible improvement in the situation. Indifferent Consuls are occasionally replaced by good—an example of this occurred very close at hand but a little time ago—but also, on the other hand, it happens sometimes that good men are replaced by indifferent. The Foreign Office remains unaltered in its attitude and it is only by influencing the Foreign Office that the necessary improvement can be brought about. British Consuls are sent out, knowing it to be their duty to protect their fellow-countryman in the lawful exercise of his trade and to obtain redress for injuries done him, and failing this to report to the British Ambassador at the particular capital. With an indifferent Ambassador, of course, the vigorous Consul is more likely to be snubbed than commended, and consequently the Ambassador too must be made aware of his duties. But the best Ambassador in the world can do little, unless backed by the home Government. It is to be hoped therefore that those members of the House

of Commons who represent trading constituencies will not fail to follow up their criticism of the present unsatisfactory system and in conjunction with the interested Press will refuse to let the matter be shelved once more. We quite appreciate what Government apologists say about the lack of energy so often shown by British concessionaries, in China as much as anywhere, in taking up the concessions granted to them. This, however, is beside the point whether the British Government does give its subjects proper assistance and protection when appealed to through its consular agents. There are two totally different faults, committed by different classes of individuals, which are responsible for what decline there is in British trade compared with the trades of other countries. It is useless for those who have committed one of these errors to excuse themselves by pointing to the other class. A double reform is necessary.

THE MACAO-CANTON RAILWAY

(Daily Press, 29th September.)

The report conveyed in a Peking despatch to Shanghai, that the new Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has consented to the petition of certain Portuguese subjects to construct a railway between Macao and Canton, recalls the discussion of some seven or eight weeks ago over the question of railway-building in the Macao neighbourhood. It will be remembered that we wrote early in August of the desire of the French to obtain a railway concession in this part of Kwangtung in order to work it in conjunction with their general railway schemes in the province. We said at the time:—"We cannot imagine, on international grounds, that it will be permitted to achieve success. There is another government which surely has the prior claim to build any railway from Macao, if China does not build one herself." As a matter of fact, at the time when we wrote, it was actually hinted that the Portuguese Government had applied to China for the concession. The present report states that "certain Portuguese subjects" have made the application, but it is evident that it has been urged by the Portuguese representative at Peking, if only from the fact that the Portuguese claim for an extension of the Macao boundaries has been dealt with at the same time. The latter request has been refused, but we hardly can suppose that the matter will rest there. With regard to the railway concession, we congratulate the concessionaires on their success and trust that the grant has not merely been sought for with a view of disposing of the line afterwards to the highest bidder. There was at one time a rumour that the Americans had disposed of their rights to the Canton-Hankow railway construction to a Belgian syndicate—a rumour which happily proved false, for it was felt that a Belgian syndicate might mean anything, among other things a preponderating French influence. If the Macao-Canton line is really going to be built, we shall trust to see it managed under the control of the Portuguese and of course the Chinese Governments. Such an arrangement will be the best guarantee of peace. A line between Macao and Canton should in itself prove lucrative, running as it does through a rich tract of territory; and when Canton is connected by rail with Central China it will be even more promising. We are once more impelled to ask the old question, when shall we hear anything more of the Kowloon-Canton Railway? Is all the railway enterprise in this part of the world to be left to other countries?

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday in the Board Room. Present: Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chupak and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE WESTERN MARKET.

A letter was submitted from Mr. A. Gibson, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, with reference to the stalls of the Western Market. It was couched in the following terms:—"Trade in the Western Market is greatly hampered for want of room, and the supply of pork, vegetable and fresh fish stalls is not equal to the demand. I attach a statement showing for what purpose each stall in the Market is used. Fifteen of the stalls in the Market are used for selling salt fish. The greater part of the retail trade in salt fish is done from shops, and, as salt fish are not a very perishable commodity, I do not think any great hardship would be inflicted on the lessees of these salt fish stalls if they were compelled to shift their quarters and find shops elsewhere. This would leave a good deal more room for the sale of those articles which more properly belong to a market for the sale of perishable goods, viz., fresh pork, fish or vegetables, etc. I would therefore recommend that those stalls be no longer let as salt fish stalls, but be let for the sale of fresh fish, pork or vegetables."

The Acting Registrar-General, having been requested by the M. O. H. to state whether he concurred in the recommendation of the C. V. S., minuted as follows:—"I quite agree with the C. V. S. Salt fish can be sold elsewhere than in a market, and the Western Market is in an overcrowded state. By turning out the salt fish keepers they will suffer hardship so I think that at least three months' notice should be given them to quit. If this plan be adopted, the C. V. S. should state what each stall should be allowed to sell, and in letting out the stalls some effort might be made to cause opposition to the present monopolies."

Mr. OSBORNE—When we lay this before the Government, sir, we should also, I think, draw the attention of the Government to the report of the Food Commission which enquired into this very matter and one of the recommendations of which was that the sale of dried provisions and canned provisions should be prohibited in the markets, thus making room for fresh provisions. I am not aware that one single recommendation of the Commission has ever been carried out, but I think it might be as well to draw the attention of the Government to this point.

The PRESIDENT—I move that this recommendation be forwarded to the Government for its favourable consideration.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—These people have no business in the market. There is no reason why they should not be turned out.

The motion was adopted.

PROPOSED NEW CHINESE THEATRE.

A plan of a proposed new Chinese theatre on Inland Lot No. 1,207 was sent in by Mr. E. M. Hazeland, architect, for consideration of the Board. The building, Mr. Hazeland stated, would be used as a theatre and not as an ordinary domestic building, and it had practically open space all round it. It fronted on to Hollywood Road and was opposite the Chinese Recreation Ground which gave it an open space at the front of about 250 feet; on the east side was Po Yan Street, 25 ft. 8 in. wide, at its rear New Street, 25 ft. 6 in. wide, and on its west an open area.

The President notified the Secretary with reference to this plan:—"Please circulate, as theatre on this site is in my opinion very undesirable, situated as it would be close to the Tung Wah and near to the Government Civil Hospital. The noises from such a building would be very detrimental to the comfort and well-being of the patients. There are already two large Chinese theatres in this neighbourhood."

The Medical Officer of Health minuted:—"I do not consider this plan at all satisfactory, as these Chinese theatres are always occupied by a considerable number of persons and no

yard space whatever is provided. The 4 ft. lane [shown on the plan] obstructed by stair-cases should be made an 8 ft. lane and unobstructed."

The Director of Public Works minuted:—"It would be well to ascertain how many people would occupy the premises and where they would be quartered. I do not see that the Board can deal with the application on the basis indicated in the President's minute."

The Captain Superintendent of Police minuted:—"I agree with the D.P.W. The Board is only concerned with the application so far as sanitation is concerned and cannot go into the question of proximity to hospitals or other general considerations."

Mr. E. Osborne minuted:—"This is an instance where the Board can do something towards preventing further overcrowding. It can refuse to approve the plans and make a strong recommendation to Government to prohibit the theatre altogether. Wherever you have a theatre there will be overcrowding. The Board's efforts should be directed towards spreading the population, and this can to some extent be done by keeping theatres, opium dens, and such like places far away from each other."

Mr. Lau Chupak minuted:—"There are at present one Chinese theatre nearer to the Tung Wah Hospital and another to the Government Civil Hospital than the proposed one. If the application be refused on the ground stated in the President's minute it may be just as well to close the other two. As regards the site, I should say, if not better, it is not worse than the others. I think the Board might entertain the application if the owner undertakes to comply strictly with the requirements of sanitation."

The Medical Officer of Health further minuted:—"The architects state that it is impossible to state how many people will occupy the theatre. It will vary from time to time."

The PRESIDENT—The opinion of several of the members seems to be that this is not a question that ought to be referred to in the way I have referred to it in that it is not a matter that deals with public health; but still I think anything that is a nuisance comes within the province of the Sanitary Board to consider, and that anything detrimental to the public health, even although only a hospital is concerned, is a thing that ought to be considered a nuisance. And this would be a nuisance not only to the inmates of the hospital but also to the European residents on the upper levels in that neighbourhood—Upper Richmond Road and Robinson Road—who have complained to me frequently about the noise from the other two theatres disturbing their rest at night; and I know from personal experience that it is considerable.

Hon. Dr. CLARK—There are two matters in connection with this which the Board might consider. First of all, the plan sent in by the architect does not conform with the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, and so far should, I think, be refused unconditionally. He proposes in building this theatre to provide a 4 ft. lane which he is filling with stair-cases. The law requires an 8 ft. lane without obstruction; and I see no reason why this building should be allowed to deviate from the Ordinance. I quite agree with you sir, that the theatre is a nuisance and it certainly comes within the province of the Sanitary Board to make recommendations to the Government, although it is quite true we have no power to prevent the erection of the theatre provided it complies with the Ordinance. However, I think we would be justified in this case in forwarding a recommendation to the Government, that if they have the power they should prohibit the erection or refuse to license the theatre when it is erected. I beg to move both these resolutions: that the Board refuse to accept the plan as at present submitted, as it is not in accordance with the Public Health Ordinance, and forward a recommendation to the Government strongly recommending the Government to prohibit or to refuse to license this theatre when it is erected.

Mr. OSBORNE—I beg to second both these motions, sir. I quite agree and sympathise with you in your efforts to keep this theatre from being built. I do not think that in any part of

the world—in London or anywhere else—would a Chinese theatre—I am talking now of a Chinese theatre, with all its accompanying noises and nuisances—be permitted within hearing of a great hospital. And as you, sir, rightly say, the inmates of an hospital are as much entitled to have their health considered as those persons living out of the hospital. But apart from that, you see I have minutely that the Sanitary Board should recommend the Government to refuse to license this theatre simply on the grounds of its causing further overcrowding. I know it will be stated that it is just the reverse—that, if the theatre is not there, there will be Chinese houses crowded with people. That is quite true, but the mere fact of the proximity of a theatre brings in its train a number of other trades, and the surrounding district will be more crowded than ever. Rickshaws, coolies, restaurants, sellers of all kinds of wares, lodging-houses and every description of Chinese life will be scattered round that theatre as they are round theatres in other parts of world. Therefore I say you will have a greater overcrowding in the neighbourhood than if that theatre did not exist. We unfortunately have no power to do anything. We have no power to stop the erection of this theatre; we can only recommend the Government to do so. And I say again that we ought to do all in our power to compel the Chinese to spread out by prohibiting such places as theatres, opium-divans and such like. If they want their theatre, let them put it somewhere else and the people will follow it. If they want their opium-divans, spread them far apart and the people will go near to them. By that means we can do a little towards stopping this overcrowding.

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—Sir, I do not quite agree with Mr. Osborne. As far as I know, there are no opium-divans or restaurants near the present theatres. No doubt this site is situated in one of the most insanitary and overcrowded localities, but I think it is more desirable to have an up-to-date building like this theatre than the present insanitary tenement houses there. So long, in my opinion, as the good derived from such a change will fully compensate for the additional noise, there should be no objection on the part of the Sanitary Board.

The PRESIDENT—You do not propose an amendment?

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—I beg to move that the plan be passed with such alterations as the Board may require.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—I consider, sir, that there is no objection to this Board making a recommendation to the Government with regard to the proximity to the Hospital of this proposed theatre, but in reality I consider that is rather outside the province of the Board. I think it rests more with you, sir, in your capacity of Principal Civil Medical Officer, to approach the Government on that subject. Still I have no objection to this being done. For the other matter, I generally agree that the building should be made to conform with the sanitary requirements of the Colony with regard to open spaces.

On the two motions proposed by Dr. Clark being put to the meeting, all (with the exception of Mr. Lau Chupak, who declined to vote) supported the first; the second was carried by 4 votes to 3, the minority being Messrs. C. McL. Messer, Fung Wa Chun, and Lau Chupak.

ANALYSIS OF WELL WATER.

Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, reported that he had, by instruction, analysed a sample of water procured from a well at the rear of the Tung Wi samshui-distillery, Tung Lo Wan, and was of opinion, from the results obtained, that the water was fit for potable purposes.

THE SOKONPOO MARKET.

Correspondence was laid on the table with reference to certain alterations recommended to be made on the Sokonpoo Market, which have received the approval of the Government. The recommendations were that (1) a large entrance from Jardine's Bazaar be made on either side of the central column, (2) the dwarf wall be removed, and (3) the stalls arranged in the central part of the vacant space as in the rest of the Market and not round the sides. The estimated cost of the work is \$250.

ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

The report of the Government Analyst upon the analyses of the public water supplies was to the effect that the results showed the water of the Pokfulam, Tylam, Kowloon and Cheung-shawan services to be of excellent quality.

LAUNDRY RETURNS.

The laundrying returns for the fortnight ended Saturday, 27th September, showed that 1,220 houses in the Central District and 271 in the Eastern had been dealt with.

THE DEATH-RATE.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 20th September showed a death-rate of 19.7 per 1,000 of the population per annum as compared with 21.6 in the previous week and 23.6 in the corresponding week of last year.

RETURNS OF RATS.

The returns of rats showed that during the week ended 20th September 1,166 rats had been destroyed in the Colony, and 793 in the previous week. During the week ended 15th ult., while the rat-catchers were out on strike, the returns fell to 273. Up to the end of August the total number of rats killed was 68,665 as compared with 60,115 and 37,068 at the corresponding date of the two previous years respectively.

This was all the public business.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Tuesday, 16th September, 1902, at 4 p.m. Present:—Hon. C. S. Sharp (Chairman), Mr. W. Poate (Vice-Chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. A. Haupt, N. A. Sieb, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, Hon. R. Shewan (*ex-officio*), and A. E. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the 12th ultimo were read and confirmed.

STORM-WARNINGS.

The correspondence under this heading which had already been published was laid on the table. The final reply, dated 10th ult., from the Colonial Secretary was read, in which he stated that it does not seem either desirable or expedient for the Government to criticise the flag signal code and meteorological exhibits submitted or to test the relative accuracy of the information and typhoon-warnings issued by the Sicawei and Hongkong Observatories, but that the Acting Director would give every assistance to the Chamber in making a comparison.

The CHAIRMAN said the Government appeared to think the Chamber had confused the difference between forecasts and the observations on which these are based, but he assured them that was not so. The net result of all the correspondence they had had with the Government on this subject would appear to be that the public now received an occasional Express giving notices of typhoons, and the circulation of the China Coast Meteorological Register had been slightly enlarged. He supposed that, in default of better results, they must for the present rest content with these small improvements in the publication of weather warnings in this Colony, only made as the result of such agitation, be it observed, but he hoped that the Chamber would never suffer this matter to rest till that system was so improved that it became much more of a credit to this Colony than it was at present. It appeared that the Acting Director of the Observatory was not to be persuaded just now into making further changes, and, possibly as his was only acting appointment, this attitude can well be understood, but, so long as this position continues, it was evident that Hongkong would have to be content with a second-class system of making weather-warnings generally known, as compared say with that at Shanghai, where, however, these matters were conducted by the Jesuit Fathers as a "labour of love," and not by a Government Institution. As to the efficiency, or accuracy of the weather-warnings themselves, they had never for a moment presumed, or felt it within their province to meddle with or question these. Their efforts had been wholly and solely directed towards obtaining some needed improvement in the method of publishing these to the shipping, and shore communities, so

that they might be given as speedily and as widely as possible, and further, to remove what appeared to be a legacy from the Director (Dr. Doberck) himself, the reproach that this Observatory was not in touch, or at all events not in sympathetic relationship, with the kindred institution at Sicawei, no doubt to the disadvantage (scientifically) of both, and certainly to the detriment of navigators in these seas. What occurred between the Director of this Observatory and the Manila Observatory a few years ago was too well known to need repetition, but the baneful results to this Colony were of so pressing a nature in that case they had to be remedied, and at once, and it was regrettable the same pressure was not applied in this instance.

A letter, dated 16th instant, was also read, on the subject of the warnings issued by the Hongkong Observatory, signed by masters of 38 steamers on the China Coast, and it was decided to forward a copy of this to the Government.

PROPOSED LICENSING OF PILOTS.

Read the report of the sub-committee, dated 8th instant, on the Government's letter on this subject, dated 16th July last. The conclusions arrived at by the sub-committee were that there is a necessity for pilotage properly so called at this port and that certificates of competency should be granted by the Government. The Licensing Board need not be entirely composed of Government officials but might be supplemented by experts. It was pointed out that the granting or refusing to grant a certificate, as suggested by the Government, could be acted on by private individuals without pecuniary responsibility to which the Government would not be liable and that the committee were only asking the Government for what is done as a matter of course in home and other Asiatic ports. The report was unanimously adopted, and after some discussion,

It was decided again to address the Government on the subject and to enclose a copy of the sub-committee's report.

ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE LEKIN AND BATTERY TAX ON YARNS IMPORTED INTO CANTON BY BRITISH STEAMERS.

Read letter from H. B. M. Consul-General at Canton, dated 29th August, stating that a Proclamation had been issued by the Canton *Lekin* Office recognising that Foreign imports were free from *lekin* and other such charges while within the port area.

The CHAIRMAN observed that this was satisfactory and he thought the thanks of the Committee were due to Mr. Consul-General Scott for the energetic manner in which the case had been pushed, and the satisfactory conclusion to which he had brought it.

The Committee cordially concurred in these remarks.

INCREASE OF TAXATION LEVIED ON OPIUM AT CANTON.

In accordance with the decision arrived at the last meeting a telegram was despatched to H.B.M. Minister at Peking on the 15th ult. urging representation on the serious state of affairs.

The Chamber's letter of 19th idem confirming the wire and giving the reasons for the protest against increased taxation was read and also Sir Ernest Satow's reply stating that the matter had been placed before H.M.'s Government.

The CHAIRMAN said that there was a rumour in Hongkong to the effect that the Chinese Authorities had abandoned the proposed additional tax, but so far it lacked confirmation; enquiries were now being made.

Mr. WILCOX said he had heard that latest advices from Canton were to the effect that the proposed tax had not been abandoned.

ALTERATIONS IN THE LAW BETWEEN MASTER AND SERVANT.

The draft Bill by the Attorney-General to meet the difficulties pointed out by the Chamber in their letter to the Government, dated 18th July, was laid on the table. Read letter, dated 2nd instant, to the Attorney-General expressing the Committee's hearty approval of the Bill and adding a few suggestions to increase the scope of its usefulness.

SCARCITY OF WATER AT SINGAPORE.

The telegram from the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, dated 1st instant, on this subject was read and the Secretary reported forwarding it to the papers for publication as soon as received.

in order that vessels for the south might take sufficient water to carry them past Singapore.

The CHAIRMAN said they were much indebted to the Singapore Chamber for their prompt warning which had been taken advantage of by the shipping concerned.

The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt of the telegram, and express the Chamber's thanks for its despatch.

FRENCH CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL.

Read letter from the Colonial Secretary dated 1st instant, enclosing a further circular from the French Customs Department, dated 15th May last, specifying the documents required in order to obtain the benefit of the reduced tariff for colonial commodities imported from their original country or from a country out of Europe. Sugar and its derivations, cacao and tobaccos are stated not to be included as coming under the head of colonial commodities. Bills of lading must be endorsed by Consular or local authorities and include declaration of origin and that the goods have not sustained rehandling or change of packing.

A letter from the French Vice-Consul was read calling attention to the Chairman's remarks contained in the published minutes of the meeting of 13th June last to the effect that Hongkong only got six months extension of the minimum tariff and he was now in a position to state that according to official information asked for by him and now in his hands Hongkong does also enjoy the same treatment as the Straits Settlements and Malay States.

The CHAIRMAN said the thanks of the Chamber were due the Consul for France for his courtesy in taking up the matter and affording the Chamber information of the result of his enquiries.

IMPERIAL CABLE COMMUNICATIONS.

With reference to the letter dated 28th May last from the London Chamber of Commerce the CHAIRMAN stated that a reply had been sent on the lines decided upon at the last meeting, and further, that in view of the recommendations made by the Inter-Departmental Committee on the subject of the granting of landing rights, advantage had been taken of this opportunity to make some comments on this subject, and the position of the Cable Companies here *vis-à-vis* the public.

NEW BRITISH COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH CHINA—THE EFFECTIVE 5 PER CENT. SPECIFIC TARIFF.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that news had been received since the last meeting of the signing of these, both of which were matters of the deepest importance to all engaged in the China trade. He suggested that as soon as authentic copies of the new Treaty were to hand it would be the duty of this Chamber to consider the same and express their views upon it.

PROPOSED FAST ATLANTIC SERVICE BY THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

The CHAIRMAN directed the attention of the Committee to the fact that negotiations are now going on between the British and Canadian Governments and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the establishment of a fast passenger and mail service across the Atlantic between Canada and the United Kingdom, and pointed out that in connection with such proposed Atlantic service an accelerated train service across Canada had been virtually promised, which in all probability would later on be followed by an improved Trans-Pacific service, whereby through communication between Hongkong and the United Kingdom, via Vancouver, would be considerably shortened. He thought proposals such as these having for their object such great improvement in communication for the benefit of passengers and mails and the commercial interests generally of the East needed no words from him to commend them to the favourable consideration of the Committee, and he further thought they would all agree that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company which had already provided such a favourably known service between this Colony and Vancouver might be depended upon to make an equal success of any such Atlantic service and that a contract for such should be entrusted to them.

The Committee unanimously approved of these remarks and the following resolution was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by the VICE-CHAIRMAN, and unanimously adopted:—

Whereas negotiations are now going on between the British and Canadian Governments and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the establishment of a fast passenger and mail service across the Atlantic between Canada and Great Britain.

And whereas the Board of Trade of the City of Montreal unanimously endorsed the establishment of such a service at a meeting held on the 29th July last.

And whereas the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. have, for the past twelve years, successfully and most creditably operated a fast line of Trans-Pacific steamers, in connection with their great Trans-Continental Railway system, extending, as it does, through Canada, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, thereby benefitting very largely the relations between China and Japan and the Continent of America, and, at the same time, furnishing Eastern merchants with the most expeditious mail service to and from America,

And whereas we understand that the offer of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to the British and Canadian Governments is to construct and put into such service ships of the most modern type and in no way inferior to the best at present running to and from New York.

And whereas it is understood that the speed of the ships will not be less than *twenty knots* and that the time in transit between Vancouver, B. C. and London will thereby be reduced, with a promised accelerated train service, to *about nine days*, as against the present service of about *14 days*.

And whereas the establishment of a fast Atlantic service by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. is likely to be followed by an improved Trans-Pacific service, shortening the time to *about 10 days* between Yokohama and Vancouver.

And whereas this Chamber endorsed by resolution of the 18th April, 1900, the renewal of the mail contract between the British Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. in connection with their "Empress" Line of steamers;

Be it resolved that this Chamber strongly endorses the necessity for a fast and reliable Atlantic service being inaugurated in connection with the present excellent service between China, and Japan and Canada, and being of opinion, judging by the regularity, despatch and reliability of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s present Pacific service, that an equally satisfactory Atlantic service would be provided on the improved conditions stated above, hereby recommends that the contract for such a mail and passenger service be accordingly entrusted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. and that a copy of this resolution be mailed to the Postmasters General at London, England, and Ottawa, Canada.

This concluded the business.

RE-ELECTION OF MR. SHEWAN TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A special general meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held on Friday in the Chamber Room, City Hall. Hon. C. S. Sharp presided and was supported by the following members of Committee:—Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, E. A. Hewett, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, and J. R. M. Smith. There were also present Mr. A. R. Lowe (Secretary), Hon. G. W. F. Playfair, Hon. R. Shewan, Messrs. E. Goetz, W. S. Bailey, A. S. Anton, A. Forbes, P. Brewitt, E. W. Mitchell, S. D. Setna, W. Danby, G. Balloch, Fung Wa Chun, Ho Fook, Ming Kee, A. Fincke, C. A. Tomes, M. M. Mehta, Fulmann, F. Smyth, W. Melcher, D. E. Brown, C. Pemberton, N. H. Rutherford, T. Arnold, C. Klinck, W. Dixon, J. H. Lewis, G. P. Lammert, E. Hinds, G. K. H. Brutton, R. H. Mitchell, C. H. Thompson, J. Jupp, W. G. Humphreys and J. Jessen.

The SECRETARY (Mr. A. R. Lowe) having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, we have called you together on this occasion in compliance with a request we have had from the Government. It will be recollected that when Mr. Whitehead went home last Spring he did not resign and there was still some portion of his term of office unexpired. At our last special meeting, in compliance with a request from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, we elected temporarily a

representative of the Chamber for the balance of Mr. Whitehead's period of office. His period of office has now expired, and we have been requested by the Governor to proceed with the election of a representative in his place. I will now read you the letter which we have received from His Excellency, dated 22nd September.

Government House,

Hongkong, 22nd September, 1902.

Sir,—With reference to Sir William Gascoigne's letter, No. 48 G of 27th May last, I have the honour to inform you that as Mr. Whitehead's term of office as a member of the Legislative Council expires on 24th inst. and Mr. Shewan's temporary appointment as his substitute will therefore also terminate on that date, I have the honour to request you to be good enough to call a meeting of the Chamber as early as convenient in order that you may have an opportunity of electing your representative.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. A. BLAKE,

Governor, etc.,

The CHAIRMAN,

Chamber of Commerce.

It only remains for me to ask members to propose and second candidates for this post.

Mr. J. H. LEWIS—I beg to propose the re-election of Mr. Robert Shewan as a member of the Legislative Council to represent this Chamber.

Mr. E. W. MITCHELL—I beg to second.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, gentlemen, if no other members have candidates to propose, we will proceed to vote upon this proposal. I take it there are no other candidates. Well, we have nothing in the rules specially to guide us in such elections, but I take it, there being only one candidate, it will be quite sufficient to take a show of hands. I will therefore put the proposal to the meeting.

On a show of hands being taken,

The CHAIRMAN declared the motion to be carried *nem. con.*

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Gentlemen, I thank you very much for the honour you have done me, and I only regret that you have had all this trouble so soon again. As one good turn deserves another, I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Sharp for his conduct in the chair. (Applause)

This ended the proceedings.

RETURN OF THE CORONATION CONTINGENT.

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR.

The Hongkong Coronation Contingent arrived back in the Colony on the 31st ult. by the s.s. *Empress of Japan*. They left for London on the 14th of May, so that their absence has extended to just four months and a half. On their departure the Contingent numbered 85—42 Volunteers, 14 men of the Hongkong Regiment, 8 of the H.K.S.B.R.A., 13 of the 1st Chinese (Wei-hai-wei) Regiment, and 6 of the Submarine Miners (Chinese). Their voyage to England via Canada and their subsequent movements in connection with the Coronation celebrations have from time to time been dealt with in our columns in chronological sequence by our correspondent with the Contingent, so that nothing remains to be told but the story of the voyage home. And it is in effect just a repetition of the narrative of their home-going. Everywhere they met with the utmost kindness and consideration: especially do they bear pleasant memories of the reception got among the people of Canada; the journey across the Pacific was uneventful, though pleasant; and all arrived in good spirits and looking remarkably fit. There is no doubt that the Contingent had to "rough it" a bit, but any slight hardship which had to be endured seems only to have accentuated the pleasures which on the whole attended the trip. To the Volunteers a special word of praise is due for their admirable behaviour under the unwonted strain of military discipline for so prolonged a period: their officers have nothing but good to say of them.

It was only in the nature of things that the Colony should be early astir yesterday with the plausible excitement of welcoming back their representatives. The *Empress* was signalled at

five minutes to seven o'clock and she steamed to her berth about an hour later. Several launches went up the Harbour to meet the steamer, and no sooner was she at the buoy than many other launches put off with friends of the members of the Contingent anxious to shake hands at once and impatient of delay; while Blake Pier was soon crowded with people, the white dresses of the ladies and the brilliant uniform of the band of the Hongkong Regiment lending the necessary picturesque effect to an animated spectacle. The drum and fife band of the Volunteer Corps was also in attendance to receive the Contingent. It was twenty minutes to ten when the launch conveying the Contingent steamed alongside Blake Pier. Among those on board was Major Pritchard, the Commandant, who had gone off to the *Empress* to meet his men. On the Pier the Contingent were met by Major Denny D.A.A.G., Chief Staff Officer. As the party disembarked they were immediately surrounded by friends and acquaintances and hand-shaking was the order of the day. But little time was available at this stage, for almost immediately the command was given "Fall in," and headed by the combined bands the Contingent marched off to the New Parade Ground, followed by a large crowd of spectators.

There the Contingent were lined up and a preliminary inspection was made by Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E., Officer Commanding the Troops, accompanied by Major Denny and Major Pritchard. H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., with his A.D.C. (Captain Arbuthnot, M.V.O.) and Lady Blake, arrived at a quarter past ten and was received with a royal salute and the National Anthem and met by the Officer Commanding the Troops and Staff and the following officers:—Colonel Johnson, C.M.G., C.R.A.; Major Pritchard; Major Berger, Commanding H.K.R.; Captain Morris, H.K.S.B.R.A.; and Lieut. Walker, R.E. The Contingent was under the command of Major Chapman, H.K.V.C., who had with him Lieut. Armstrong; and Subadar Major Sardar Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., commanded the detachment of the Hongkong Regiment, and with him was Jemadar Afzul Khan, recently promoted from non-commissioned officer. The numbers were: H.K.V.C., 2 officers and 36 men; H.K.S.B.R.A., 8 non-commissioned officers and men; H.K.R., 2 officers, 13 non-commissioned officers and men; H.K. Sub-mining Engineers, 6 non-commissioned officers and men.

Having inspected the party,

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Major Chapman, officers and men of the Hongkong Coronation Contingent, I am glad to welcome you home from your long journey to London as representing at the Coronation of the King the local Volunteer and Military forces. And it is pleasant to hear that during your absence in London the conduct of every member of the Hongkong Coronation Contingent has been everything that could be desired. It was my good fortune to be in London and to see you at that great parade at the Horse Guards, when from every quarter of the earth, paraded by the Prince of Wales and inspected by the Queen, were representatives of over a quarter of a million of Volunteer and Colonial troops of various races, but all united by a common loyalty and readiness to fight for that old flag that has been, and is, wooed by the breezes of every zone. I observed on the breasts of many present the South African Medal, and I remembered with pride that among the first to volunteer for service in the great war now so happily ended were fifty men of the Hongkong Volunteer force. You have had a great opportunity of seeing the centre of the Empire at a time of thrilling interest and of observing that loyalty to the Throne is the very warp and woof of the character of the British people. You have seen London ablaze with decorations, at the very summit of affectionate and loyal anticipation and filled with the representatives of every potentate on earth to take part in and do honour to that great central incident in the life of our King. And you have seen London with hopes crushed and you have seen with what fortitude the people bore their great sorrow while His Majesty the King lay in extreme danger—a danger faced by him with a calm courage that led him safely through the Valley of the Shadow of

Death and enabled him to take and bear his part in that fatiguing, great ceremony with which for a thousand years the Kings and the Queens of England have been crowned. You who have seen all these things will remember whenever you hear the National Anthem that God has indeed saved our King from his extremity and will all the more heartily in the future pray that He may give His Majesty long life. You have also seen something of that great Dominion of Canada and its vast plains, its magnificent mountains and rivers, its boundless possibilities and its grand population of men and women who show the best qualities of our race. And here in this little island of Hongkong you feel, as we feel, that while our lines may be cast for the present in the very extremity of the Empire, we are all part of one great whole, identical in interests, in spirit and in loyalty. To the employers who have given leave to the Volunteers and who have borne so patiently their prolonged absence, the thanks of the community are due; and you will return to your avocations none the less heartily that you have had a good holiday. I am sorry that the connection of one of your units with Hongkong is soon to be severed, as the Hongkong Regiment is about to be disbanded—a regiment that during its short career has earned nothing but praise and admiration. And now once more I wish you all a welcome home, and I am sure that your eventful journey to London for the Coronation of the King will have in the future for every one of you a pleasant memory.

At the conclusion of his address, His Excellency lifted his hat and gave the order to dismiss the parade. Each unit afterwards marched off to its respective head-quarters.

The detachment of the 1st Chinese (Weihaiwei) Regiment disembarked at Shanghai.

HONGKONG S. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 21st annual general meeting of the above Society was held on the 29th ult. in the City Hall. Mr. H. W. Robertson, Vice-President, presided over a large attendance.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. David Wood) submitted the report and the statement of accounts for the year ended 31st August, 1902, which showed that during the year a larger number than usual of applications for assistance from the Charitable Fund were received, and after full investigation grants-in-aid were given, amounting in all to \$674.55 as against \$142.80 in the previous year. Situations were found for 7 more applicants, and 4 cases were assisted privately by members. The balance now to the credit of the Society is \$2,320.85 as against \$2,611.28 last year. 41 members joined the Society during the year. S. Andrew's Day, 1901, was celebrated by a ball in the City Hall, which was very successful socially. A Scotch concert was organised for 25th January, the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, and proved a success in every way. Messrs. T. F. Hough and R. L. Richardson resigned their places on the Committee on their departure from the Colony, being replaced by the Hon. Robert Shewan and Mr. D. G. Brown. Mr. Andrew Forbes replaced Mr. Peter Dow as Hon. Treasurer, on the latter leaving the Colony. The Committee were indebted to Messrs. A. R. Lowe and B. E. Hanson for kindly auditing the accounts. The Committee deeply regretted to have to record the deaths of the following members: A. G. Aitken, Lt.-Com. Baird (R.N.), H. M. Brown, A. W. R. Cobban, David R. Crawford, David Gillies, John Kennedy, G. Tayler, and W. M. Thomson. Messrs. Crawford and Gillies were original members, and did excellent work for the Society.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the annual report and accounts for the season 1901-2. These documents have been in your hands for some days past, and clearly set forth our position. You will have noticed that \$1,000 have been withdrawn from fixed deposit account, but against this you must remember that we started the year with a debit balance on general account of nearly \$400, and that grants-in-aid have exceeded by over \$500 the disbursements on same account for the year previous. I think we may congratulate

ourselves that, in comparing our financial position to-day with what it was a year ago, it is practically a case of "as you were." The S. Andrew's Ball of 1901 passed off with *éclat*, thanks to the untiring efforts of our energetic Hon. Secretary and the members of the various sub-committees. The concert, held on the anniversary of the birthday of the immortal Robbie, earned equal praise, and our best thanks are cordially tendered to those who warbled so beautifully that evening, as also to those who were responsible for the initiation of the concert and its management throughout. Gentlemen, death has been busy in our midst. Since our last annual meeting no less than nine of our members have joined the great majority. Past President Gillies, our late Treasurer Mr. Crawford, and Mr. A. G. Aitken rank among our most senior members. Indeed Mr. Gillies and Mr. Crawford were original members of the Society. We recognise, one and all of us, how heartily and loyally their services, helpful advice, and practical work were ever at the Society's disposal. It is almost sadder to think of the deaths of men like Commander Baird and Mr. Hugh Matheson Brown, both so terribly suddenly cut off in their prime ere they had opportunity of reaping the full reward of the marked abilities that each undoubtedly possessed. Our sincere sympathy is with the near relatives and friends of those members whose deaths are recorded in the report now before us. Our President, Mr. Whitehead, as you are aware, was recalled home on promotion before he had completed his year of office. I wish he was with us to-day to personally receive our thanks, and I feel sure you will wish me to record our great appreciation of his services to the Society. You will agree with me that the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society loses much by the absence from its active ranks of men like Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Fullarton Henderson, Mr. Stewart Lockhart, and Mr. J. J. Bell Irving, all of whom have left the Colony during the past year. Gentlemen, I shall not detain you longer and beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts now presented to you. (Applause.)

Mr. R. MITCHELL seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to consider how best they could celebrate S. Andrew's Day.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR remarked that, from the elaborate statement which the Hon. Secretary had compiled, it was very evident that the S. Andrew's Ball on the basis on which they had been having them for the last ten years was finished (applause), and that if they were to have a S. Andrew's Ball at all it must be on a different basis altogether. Before, they paid a \$10 subscription, \$10 for the first guest, and \$5 for the next, and had a very large free list of married people, officials and military. Now it seemed to him that they could not have this Ball without a radical change—a minimum of \$25 subscription. Let each person nominate one guest or married couple as their special guests and let the official free invitations be reduced to a minimum; he should say—taking the Army as an instance—not below the rank of Major. Personally he would suggest the rank of Colonel, but probably Major would be a sufficient compromise. He very much doubted if a \$25 subscription for guests would be sufficient. But it was a matter for the members to consider whether it should be put at \$25 with one free guest or a married couple to each person; also whether they should cut down the official guests to a minimum and try to reduce the Ball within smaller limits. A Ball of 800 or 900 was ample but he was not wrong, he thought, in saying that in recent years there had been as many as 1,200 present?

The Hon. SECRETARY—That is so.

Hon. Mr. PLAYFAIR went on to say that the amount of crushing at recent Balls was a little too much for comfort. Consequently he thought that members who wanted a Ball must go on something like the lines he had indicated. The subscribers last year numbered 153. Well, unless there were very many new subscribers they might take it, allowing for the discount that at \$25 there would be about 100 subscribers—the Hon. Secretary put it down at 135. But if there were 100 that meant \$2,500. They had got to find the remaining \$1,500 unless the Ball

was to be run cheap. In \$5 guests they had to find that remaining \$2,500. He would like to express the hope there that there would never be any more occasion to term the Ball a charity ball. (Applause.) There should be no charity. If they could not pay for their own dances, then they should not have them. (Applause.) He had just put these few suggestions forward in the form of a motion because he was interested and had been asked to give his views first. (Applause.) With regard to what the Ball cost last year, he might mention that if those members who did not ask any guests were deducted, those remaining over paid an average of \$42 each so that it was not cheap for them.

Mr. E. J. MAIN thought Mr. Playfair's remarks would be understood if the members took into consideration what the Ball had been in former years. Formerly a member subscribed \$20 and was allowed to invite two guests. Now it was suggested that the subscription should be \$25 with the right to invite one guest. He believed that a great many members would subscribe under these proposed new conditions, who were beginning to kick at the old. Certainly the number of guests invited to the Ball was far out of proportion to the accommodation provided by the rooms. Another matter was that the complimentary or free list should certainly be cut down, if not done away with altogether.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the question under discussion had received full consideration from the Committee. There was one thing they were all agreed upon and that was that nobody should be allowed to come in at \$10 a head, because the cost was more than that. He agreed with Mr. Main as to cutting down the official list. But it could not be done away with altogether. You must ask the Governor and both Admirals, and Captains of ships, and as Mr. Playfair said, the Colonels and Majors. That was a matter that, he thought they might safely leave in the hands of the Invitation Committee. With regard to the other guests of the Society who heretofore had been asked—that was to say, well-known residents of Hongkong—the idea was that these invitations should be done away with entirely. (Applause.) This \$25 entitled the subscriber to ask either a bachelor friend or a married couple; apart from that each guest must be paid for. He did not see how the Ball could possibly be run otherwise, taking into consideration the exchange rate, prices of wines, etc. If he was not mistaken, the two guests each subscriber was entitled to have under the old arrangement had to be bachelor guests. The ladies were all asked free. So that there were to be no lady guests of the Society now at all. All civilians must be invited by a member and be paid for.

The HON. SECRETARY added that it was to be remembered that the old \$20 subscription covering two guests had to meet quite a different expense compared with nowadays.

Mr. R. MITCHELL was afraid that if no ladies were given complimentary tickets it would be a question whether a sufficient number would be present to make it a dancing Ball. There might be all bachelors and no ladies in the place.

Hon. Mr. PLAYFAIR—Oh they will all be paid for. (Laughter.)

Mr. E. J. MAIN seconded the motion.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—What would be the fee chargeable for each additional guest?

The CHAIRMAN—It has been put at \$5.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM asked if it would not be preferable to increase the fee for each additional guest and make the subscription a little less than \$25. This subscription might prevent some people from participating who were reasonably entitled to do so. He would propose that the subscription be reduced to \$20, including one guest or a married couple, and that \$7½ be charged for each additional guest.

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART asked if the Committee had any proposal to make in the matter?

The CHAIRMAN intimated that the proposal put forward by the Mr. Playfair embodied their unanimous resolution.

Mr. R. MITCHELL suggested that the cards of invitation be taken at the door. He believed it had been the custom previously for many people to go to the Balls who had not been invited.

The CHAIRMAN said that matter had been before the Committee and that it

had been decided that the tickets should each bear a counterfoil which would have to be presented at the door.

Hon. Mr. PLAYFAIR—I suppose it is to be understood that daughters are included in the term "married couple?"

The CHAIRMAN—How many? (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. PLAYFAIR—I have not got a dancing daughter myself yet, but there may be two in a house—and we can't help it. (More laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN—Yes I think that will be all right.

Mr. R. MITCHELL moved as a further amendment that the subscription be \$20 and the fee for each additional guest \$5. People who wanted to ask their friends would subscribe in order to do so.

The HON. SECRETARY pointed out that that was making no alteration on last year. If it could be worked out to produce \$5,000, it would be quite satisfactory, but he did not see how it could be done.

Mr. MITCHELL suggested that perhaps Mr. Wood was going on the basis of having 1,200 people present.

The HON. SECRETARY—No.

Mr. MITCHELL remarked that the chances were that they would have a more successful Ball with a limit of 800. The expenses would be less, and a greater number of members would subscribe and bear a fair proportion of the expense. (Hear, hear.)

The HON. SECRETARY stated that with regard to the supper it was charged up at the rate of 550 guests, so there was no competition there. The only thing on which some reduction might be effected was champagne and as that only came to \$100 last year he was afraid the reduction would not be much. It was a question of getting the money; were there too much, it had always a nice place to go to in the Charity Funds.

Mr. H. F. CARMICHAEL asked if the Hon. Secretary could inform the meeting how much the practice dances cost in the way of liquor?

The HON. SECRETARY replied that the cost was between \$200 and \$300.

Mr. CARMICHAEL suggested that it would be advisable to introduce a system of checks.

The HON. SECRETARY remarked that if the Ball were run on the lines now proposed they could not have more than about two practice dances, because it would take a considerable time to find out who were going. Before, there was always the free list.

The question of the conduct of the practice dances was referred to the Committee.

Mr. J. GALT seconded Mr. Mitchell's amendment. He thought \$20 was quite sufficient to cover all the expenses necessary.

Captain G. C. ANDERSON said that the Committee had come to a different conclusion after the most careful consideration of the matter.

Mr. GALT contended that they should curtail the invitations. He thought \$20 quite sufficient.

Captain G. C. ANDERSON—But the Committee have not to think; they must be sure. (Laughter.)

Mr. D. R. LAW also said that \$25 was the least the Committee considered to be a safe figure.

Mr. W. STEWART suggested warmly that it appeared to him the Committee had come there with the whole thing cut and dried. What was the use of members coming there at all? (A Voice—"That's what the Committee's for," and laughter.)

On a vote being taken between Hon. Mr. Playfair's motion and Mr. Mitchell's amendment, the motion was carried by a large majority. Hon. Mr. Chatham's amendment was not seconded and fell to the ground accordingly.

The Ball will take place on Friday, 28th November, S. Andrew's Day this year falling upon the Sunday.

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART moved that Mr. H. W. Robertson be elected President for the ensuing year. (Applause.) Mr. Robertson had had the benefit of the experience of being Vice-President, he had shown that evening that he knew how to occupy the chair, and he was young enough yet to dance reels and show people how to do it. (Applause.)

Mr. D. R. LAW seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN, in thanking the members for the honour they had done him, said that to be elected President of the S. Andrew's Society of Hongkong was an honour that fell to the lot of few Scotsmen in the Far East and an honour to be really proud of. In a way it was the hall mark of the Society. He would do his very best to fulfil their expectations and he again sincerely thanked them. (Applause.)

Mr. W. KIDD proposed that Hon. R. Shewan be elected to the important post of Vice-President. To a Hongkong audience it would be entirely unnecessary and perhaps invidious to say anything in putting forward such a motion, and he left it with every confidence to the meeting.

Hon. W. CHATHAM seconded.

Mr. H. F. Carmichael moved that Hon. G. W. F. Playfair be elected.

Mr. T. H. REID seconded.

Hon. Mr. PLAYFAIR, however, asked leave to withdraw his name.

The election of Hon. Mr. Shewan was carried unanimously.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN, in acknowledging the honour, said he had not known until Mr. Kidd spoke that the post of Vice-President was so important; he had always thought the Vice-President had nothing to do. (Laughter.) Dr. Johnson who was a very disagreeable man and an Englishman, said when he returned from his visit to Scotland that the only nice thing he saw there was the road to England. (Laughter.) As he had said, Dr. Johnson was a very disagreeable man and, he was sorry to think, was encouraged by a Scotsman who flattered and loaded to him. But that road to which Dr. Johnson had referred had been travelled now by many and many good Scotsmen and would be travelled by many more who would find on their way little societies like their own. Even Samuel Johnson would have opened his eyes if he had seen things as they were to-day, with the Canadian Pacific Company running from England to Vancouver from Vancouver to Hongkong and back again to England. Well, they had insisted on his being a Scotsman and he would not dispute it with them. He had attempted it one day with the Secretary and the language that the latter used was so vehement and violent that he gave it up in despair (laughter), and allowed the Cockney to be butchered to make a Scotsman's holiday. (Laughter and applause.) He might tell them in the first place that his parents were Aberdonians and, he believed, good Aberdonians at that. That did not help him much. But it came to this, that while Scotsmen knew that Aberdeen was in Scotland, Aberdonians had an impression that the greatest and better part of Scotland was in Aberdeen. (Applause.) In the second place although they might not believe it, he was brought up as a strict Presbyterian. (Laughter.) That, he thought, ought to count as something in his position. In the third place he could assure them that he had a strong partiality for drink (laughter); and fourthly and lastly, he was a great admirer of the Psalms of David. Why David in particular should be such a great favourite with all Scotsmen he had never been able quite to understand. He supposed it was because David was a little bit of a black-guard. (Laughter.) He was certainly, like another sweet singer of whom they were all proud, rather an improper person in private life (laughter), and devoted far too much time to women, wine and song. Certainly they both loved dancing. He thought David was caught dancing by his wife with Michael—not the Michael the Dock Company needed to be afraid of. (Laughter.) And they all knew that Burns loved dancing, how he was ever at his best—

When, to the stented string,

The dance gaed thro' the lich't it ha';

—and he was sure that both of these worthies, if they had been living to-day—he was sorry they were not—would have been very willing to put up \$25 to go to the Ball; and when it was considered how large a number of wives and families they had, it would have been dirt cheap for them. (Laughter and applause.) He did not think that David or Burns would have approved their Vice-President. He thought they would have done much better to have taken Mr. Carmichael's nominee, but as

it was, as their unworthy Vice-President he thanked them for the honour they had done him. (Applause.)

Mr. D. K. LAW moved the re-election of Mr. Andrew Forbes as Hon. Treasurer. He was sure they could go a long way and not get a better man. (Applause.)

Mr. J. MACDONALD seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN moved that Mr. David Wood be re-elected Hon. Secretary. He had the greatest respect for the President, Vice-President and Treasurer, but as Mr. Gershom Stewart had remarked to him in entering the building it was the Secretary who was the mainspring of the whole business. He was undoubtedly the most hard-working man of the whole crowd. He was the fountainhead to whom you go when in a difficulty or when you have two ladies to take across to Kowloon in a sampan on a dark night. (Laughter.) There be secretaries and secretaries, but he believed there was not anywhere a more devoted, more zealous, or harder working secretary than Mr. Wood. (Applause.)

Mr. E. J. MAIN seconded, and motion was agreed to.

A ballot vote was afterwards taken for the election of five members of Committee, Messrs T. P. Cochran and P. Dow acting as scrutineers. The following were elected to the Committee:—Mr. W. Kidd, Dr. A. Rennie, Hon. G. W. F. Playfair, Mr. J. R. M. Smith and Mr. Gershom Stewart.

On the motion of the Hon. SECRETARY, a vote of thanks was awarded the Chairman.

This ended the proceedings.

PORTUGAL'S ROYAL ANNIVERSARY.

The anniversary of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Portugal falling upon the 28th ult., Sr. Conselheiro A. G. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal, held an "At Home" at his residence, "Duarte," Arbuthnot Road, at 11 o'clock. There were many callers, including almost all of Mr. Romano's colleagues on the body consulate, and the reception did not terminate until 1 o'clock, although noon had been the hour originally fixed upon. At 2 o'clock the Consul-General despatched a telegram to Count Arnoso, the King's Private Secretary, congratulating Their Majesties upon the anniversary. Yesterday morning a reply was received from Count Arnoso, thanking Mr. Romano in the name of the King and Queen for his felicitations.

As some statements have been made with regard to Sr. Conselheiro Romano's resignation of the chairmanship of the Club Lusitano a post which he, one of the original founders of the Club, has long held, we may mention that he was practically obliged to adopt this course. It has been usual for the Club to decorate on the Royal Birthday and otherwise celebrate the occasion. This year (on account it is said, of the friction arising over the new Press law in Brazil) the committee decided not to observe the event in the wonted manner. Senhor Romano, the representative of His Majesty the King of Portugal, therefore felt it incumbent on him to dissociate himself from this line of action and resigned the chairmanship of the Club.

COMING THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES.

At the present moment there are not many dates fixed for the theatrical season at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, but enough is known to show that it will be an interesting one. It opened on Saturday night with the Neill-Frawley Company's performance of *Secret Service*, followed to-day by *Lord and Lady Algy*. After this, unfortunately, our American visitors leave us, with hopes, however, of a return after the New Year.

In the first or second week of November the Hongkong A.D.C. presents *Liberty Hall*, the prospects of which appear very bright. Then before Christmas the A.D.C. contemplates giving *His Excellency the Governor*, a comedy of a light description, which has been performed here by the Dallas Co.; and some time in

January the musical comedy by W. S. Gilbert and Cosmo Carr, *His Excellency*.

The only other date arranged so far is the visit of the Brough Company about the middle of February next. This will be the last visit of Mr. and Mrs. Brough to the Far East, as Mr. Brough intends to retire from the stage at the completion of his season.

One or two other applications have, we understand, been made for the use of the Theatre, but no definite arrangements have been made beyond what we have mentioned.

ENQUIRIES INTO COLLAPSED HOUSES.

THE KOWLOON CITY ROAD CASE.

The official enquiry into the fatal collapse of houses Nos. 30 and 32, Kowloon City Road, on 18th July last, was resumed on the 26th ult. before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and a common jury. Mr. H. L. Dennys, Acting Crown Solicitor, conducted the enquiry on behalf of the Government, and Mr. H. W. Looker, solicitor, watched the proceedings on behalf of Messrs. Leigh and Orange, the architects of the houses.

R. K. Leigh, of the firm of Leigh and Orange, said he had been over 22 years in Hongkong either in Government service or on his own account. In the early part of 1901, on behalf of the Hongkong Land Investment Co., he prepared plans and called for tenders for the erection of 30 houses in Kowloon City Road, 15 houses on K.I.L. 1,107 and 15 on K.I.L. 1,108. Tenders were received by witness for the building of these houses, the figures ranging from \$86,200 to \$141,000; the Loong Cheong firm was amongst those which tendered, and the amount of its tender was \$98,000. No tender was accepted for these thirty houses, because the company instructed witness to prepare plans for 2 more on K.I.L. 1,118. It was ultimately agreed with the Loong Cheong firm that the whole fifty houses should be built for \$145,000 and a contract was then entered into between this firm and the Land Investment Co. Witness knew Loong Cheong before this; he had done many big jobs for Leigh & Orange. His tender and those of others were by invitation, and were not public tenders. The necessary notice to the P.W.D. was duly sent in, and an acknowledgement was received from Mr. Tooker, *pro.* the D.P.W., approving the plans of the houses and authorising the work.

At this point Mr. Looker rose and objected to the publication of the proceedings in the newspapers. In that morning's *Daily Press* there had been a long account of what had taken place at the enquiry on Thursday, and he supposed that the present proceedings would be reported as fully in the next issue of the paper. It was not right and proper to so report the proceedings, because the publication of the evidence might prejudice a jury. For his authority Mr. Looker referred his Worship to *Jervis on Coroners*. The reason for which the enquiry was held was to find out whether there was criminal liability on anybody's part, and under these circumstances it was not right or proper that the evidence should be published in the newspapers.

Mr. Dennys said he was not prepared for this objection—(His Worship—Neither was I)—and all he could say was that it must be within his Worship's knowledge that in England the fullest reports of the evidence taken at coroners' enquiries were published every day in the newspapers. This enquiry was just the same as any ordinary Police Court proceedings in which a man was brought before his Worship and committed for trial at the Supreme Court. Such proceedings were constantly published in the papers, although they were only preliminary enquiries, and he thought that the benefit to be derived from an enquiry of this sort would be very greatly lessened if the newspapers were to be forbidden to publish what took place. Of course, his Worship had full power to at any time forbid the publication of evidence that had been given before him or of any statement made in Court, and if for any reason he should see fit to order these proceedings not to be published, his Worship had full power to do so. The object of the present enquiry was to ascertain whether anybody was

criminally liable. It was not simply to ascertain the cause of the deaths of these people, but whether their deaths were brought about by the criminal negligence of anybody, and whether steps could be taken to prevent such accidents in future.

Mr. Looker submitted that the present proceedings were quite different from ordinary Police Court proceedings, and that they should not be published in the papers until the enquiry was concluded, and then only if nobody was committed for trial.

Mr. Dennys contended that the newspapers represented the public, and as the enquiry was a public one and everybody had a right to be there, no reason existed why the proceedings should not be reported in the newspapers.

After further argument on the same lines, his Worship remarked that such coroners' proceedings as had previously taken place before him had always been published, and he saw no reason to depart from that custom.

Mr. Looker—I leave it entirely in your Worship's hands.

His Worship—It is done in England every day.

Mr. Looker suggested that a way out of the difficulty would be to hold the enquiry in private.

His Worship—No, I see no reason why I should make any order.

The examination being resumed, witness said that work on K.I.L. 1,107 was commenced first, shortly after 16th May, 1901; then followed in order work on Lots 1,108 and 1,118. He personally inspected the work, and was satisfied with it. With Section 12, Sub-section 1 of the Building Ordinance, which provided that no wall should exceed 35 feet in length without the approval of the Director of Public Works, witness was familiar. The length of the party and end walls of the houses in Kowloon City Road was 60 feet altogether, without return or cross walls; with return and cross walls the length was 45 feet 6 inches. Witness knew very well the provisions of the clause in the English Act of 1894, but he did not think that in the present case walls, because they exceeded 35 feet in length, required extra thickness. The height of the end walls and party walls of these houses was 50 feet, measuring half-way up the gable, in accordance with the Building Ordinance of the Colony; the actual height, measuring to the top of the gable at its highest point, was 55 feet.

Mr. Dennys (quoting from the Ordinance)—The height of these end walls exceeds 40 feet, but does not exceed 50 feet, and they exceed 45 feet in length?

Witness—Yes.

Continuing, Mr. Leigh said it was the case that in the London Building Ordinance of 1594 it was enacted that the thickness of such walls shall be 21½ inches for the height of one story, 17½ inches for the height of the next story, and 13 inches for the rest of their height. The "Model Bye-laws" of the local Government Board were to the same effect. Witness did not know whether all the provincial bye-laws at home were based on the same principle. In the case before the Court the thickness of the end and party walls was shown on the plans to be 18 inches on the ground floor and 14 inches on the two upper floors, which was in accordance with the requirements of the Hongkong Building Ordinance. When witness sent in the plans to the P. W. D., he did not specially call the attention of the D. P. W. to the length of these walls, as was required under Section 12, Sub-section 1 of the Ordinance, and no special approval was received from the D. P. W. with regard to their length; witness did not consider that any special approval was necessary.

Mr. Dennys—Do you or do you not know that a former D. P. W. refused to pass plans showing walls exceeding 35 feet in length?

Witness—I do—Mr. Ormsby. He refused because he declined to exercise the discretionary powers conferred upon him under the Ordinance. The reason Mr. Ormsby gave was that he was within a year of his pension, and he declined to undertake any responsibility. (Laughter.)

Proceeding, Witness said the Court in which they were sitting exceeded the provisions of the Ordinance, in that, being 40 feet long, it exceeded the limit of 35 feet; further, it was twice as wide as any Chinese house, was two stories in height without a dividing floor, and

had neither cross wall nor tie-rods. Many large public buildings—S. John's Cathedral, S. George's Hall, and such like places—had walls exceeding 35 feet in length, without a return or cross wall. He could not say what the thickness of the walls of these buildings was. Witness personally looked after the houses on K.I.L. 1,108 after his return from Japan, and also those on K.I.L. 1,118, and during his inspection of these fifty houses he noticed there was something wrong hundreds of times; for instance the northern wall of the most northerly house on K.I.L. 1,108 was built out of plumb. That wall had been entirely pulled down and reconstructed.

Mr. Looker, rising, objected to the line of examination on the ground of its irrelevancy. The matter of the houses that had collapsed was what they were dealing with, and it was entirely irrelevant on the part of Mr. Dennys to ask questions with regard to other houses.

Mr. Dennys—I shall have a great many questions to ask with reference to the other houses in these blocks.

Witness—And I can refuse to answer.

Mr. Dennys—Yes, and the jury can draw their own conclusions.

His Worship overruled the objection.

The examination was accordingly resumed at the point of interruption, and witness said he was aware that cracks had developed in the wall which had been rebuilding. The south wall at the end of the block of houses on Lot 1,107 was being pulled down by witness's orders, because it showed signs of weakness after the typhoon of 2nd August. These signs of weakness were cracks, and similar indications of instability were apparent in other walls. The houses, however, were not yet out of the contractor's hands, and were unoccupied.

This caused Mr. Looker again to object to Mr. Dennys's questions; what was the use of conducting investigations in regard to houses that were not occupied?

Mr. Dennys said the enquiry was the enquiry of his Worship in his capacity of coroner, and as his Worship's mouth-piece he had every right to ask these questions.

His Worship—Yes, that is so. I think the questions are quite relevant.

In reply to further questions, witness said some of the damaged walls had been pulled down and their rebuilding proceeded with. He did not give notice to the D. P. W. of such demolition and reconstructions because he did not consider that it was required.

Mr. Dennys—Do you consider that these houses would be safe, with their party walls in their present condition in the event of a typhoon?

Witness—We are doing the worst walls first; it is impossible to do everything at once. A typhoon might blow down everything.

Mr. Dennys objected to the answer, and witness added—I consider they would be safe, except in the case of a bad typhoon. If the wind blew hard enough it would blow down every house in the Colony.

Mr. R. K. Leigh was again put into the box on the 29th ult. He considered, he said, that the houses on Lot 1,107 as well as on Lot 1,108 would have been safe except in the case of a bad typhoon. With the exception of the two end ones he believed the houses on Lot 1,107 were occupied now. Nos. 6 and 8 were, he thought, occupied, he could not swear, however, to that. He was not taking any steps to pull down the party wall between Nos. 6 and 8. There had been no sinking of the foundations in the houses on Lots 1,107 and 1,108 that he could see. He did not attribute the cracks in the party wall between 6 and 8 to any defect in the party wall but to the tendency of the back wall to go out. There was no settlement in the foundations of the back wall. He attributed this going out of the back wall to the joints of the brickwork becoming softened by continuous rain and thus being unable to stand the pressure of the upper portion of the wall. This softening in the back wall had taken place mostly at the level of the first floor. With reference to houses Nos. 52, 54, 56 and 58 on Lot 1,108, exactly the same thing had happened to them—softening of the mortar joints, causing the walls of the two upper floors to fall out, the ground floor being, in fact, uninjured. He could

not remember how many party walls on Lot 1,108 were cracked, but those he had mentioned were the worst. He could not tell the Court how many party walls on these two lots were cracked but it was very likely that in most of the party walls there was some indication of cracks in the back portions. With regard to the southerly wall of the southernmost house on Lot 1,107 the same thing happened to it. There were cracks right through. The whole gable wall had a tendency to fall out, commencing at the level of the first floor. There were cracks just at the front of the verandah where the south wall parted from the gable. With reference to the most southerly house, the gable wall had a tendency to fall out; there was no sinking of the foundations of the wall. The reason of that tendency to fall out was the softening of the mortar joints.

Mr. Dennys—It comes to this, does it not, that all four gable walls of these two blocks had a tendency to fall outwards, and that the back wall of both blocks also had a tendency to fall outwards?

Witness—That is so as regards the back wall of both blocks, and also the north and south walls of K.I.L. 1,107, but not as regards the gable walls of K.I.L. 1,108.

Continuing, witness said the northern gable wall cracked owing to the outward tendency of the back wall; it was pulled down shortly after his return from Japan. The southern gable wall on K.I.L. 1,107 was pulled down shortly after the typhoon of 2nd August last. Witness did not make any report to the Land Investment Co., nor did he give notice to the D.P.W. of his intention to pull this wall down; that was an omission. Under the Ordinances, however, architects had power, in cases of emergency to act without notifying the D.P.W. Speaking generally, said witness, there was no settlement of the foundations of K.I.L. 1,107 and 1,108, and the ground-story walls, of all these houses were in good condition. Witness heard of the collapse of Nos. 30 and 32 on the morning of 19th July, the morning following the accident, and he went over and made an inspection. He met Mr. Chatham on his way to the scene, and on arrival there they found Mr. Looker. Roughly speaking, the northern wall of No. 30 collapsed from near the front wall back almost to the creek-house wall, and down to the level of the first floor—that was to say, the two upper storeys had fallen down, the roof giving way first. As to No. 32, its condition was very similar, with the material difference, however, that whilst the wall at No. 30 fell out, that at No. 32 fell in. Witness was of opinion that the wall of No. 30 fell out first, and that No. 32 did not collapse of itself. Both outside walls had two coats of plaster, which meant about half-an-inch of plaster. Simply looking at No. 30, witness's first impression as to the cause of its collapse was that the wind had blown out the end wall, but from the number of collapses and of other walls seriously damaged, though not actually collapsed, which came under his personal observation between the typhoon of 18th July and the cessation of the heavy rains of 3rd or 4th August, it was evident to witness that some other cause was at work besides the wind alone. He now attributed the falling of the northern wall of No. 30 to the softening of the mortar joints thus causing the wall to become out of plumb and ultimately to fall out. (Mr. Leigh illustrated his meaning by the aid of some books.) In No. 30 there were four tie-rods, and in No. 32 six. From the appearance of the washer-plates fastened to the tie-rods, it seemed to witness that the brickwork must have become softened right through; by brickwork he meant both bricks and mortar. The breaking strain of each tie-rod was 31 tons, and it was evident that with these tie-rods the wall of No. 30 could not have fallen down had it not been that the brickwork had become so softened that the washer plates pulled through. To witness's mind the collapse of this wall was chiefly due to the disintegration of the brickwork. The fact that the houses were now rendered them more liable to climate wear, for the reason that the mortar would not have properly set. If the wall had been coated with tar or paint, or some other similar material, the wall never would have collapsed, as matters stood, the rain had been blown in through the plaster by the wind, and thus penetrated the brickwork.

On the 30th ult. Mr. R. K. Leigh gave further evidence of a technical nature. The senior partner of the Loong Cheong firm the contractors, was named Tam Ling, and he it was who looked after the execution of the work. It was often the case that in a contract the work connected with the various trades included therein—bricklaying, carpentering, etc.—was sub-let, but in the present case, so far as witness knew, there had been no sub-contracting. Section 48 of the specifications provided for the use of the best Canton hard red brick, but there were more than one class of that kind of brick, the difference coming in in the clay and the burning. There were three grades, so to speak, and the difference in the price of each might be about \$10 per 10,000; thus, if the first grade cost \$65 per 10,000, the second grade would run about \$55. Canton red brick was always cheaper in winter than in summer, and the price just now of 10,000 of the finest grade would run from \$65 to \$70; the same quantity of Amoy bricks purchased in Hongkong would cost about \$135. Shell-lime (used in the mixing of mortar), as employed in Hongkong, sometimes contained foreign mixtures which impurities all tended to reduce the utility of the lime, the quality of which had also deteriorated of late years in the Colony. The houses in Kowloon City Road were "green" or new work, but the length of time that a house remained "green" depended on the state of the atmosphere and the weather generally. With reference to Canton bricks, witness continued, these were not uniform in size, nor were they properly proportioned with regard to their length, width, and thickness. The result of building with ill-proportioned bricks was the leaving of wide joints, so necessitating the use of a greater quantity of mortar; varying in size as they did, the bricks further necessitated wide, horizontal joints, which made proper bonding difficult. If the external wall of No. 30 had been built of cement mortar, it would not have collapsed, but witness did not think it would have stood had it been built of Amoy bricks, though in his opinion they would not have become sodden to the same extent as Canton red bricks; Amoy bricks also would have allowed of closer jointing. Witness reiterated his opinion that a coating of tar or paint would have prevented the collapse. With reference to Harry Andersen, the overseer engaged by witness, it was his duty to watch the building work on the houses. Andersen was first employed to look after the construction of a sea-wall on the reclamation on K.M.L. 69, and when this was nearly finished he was engaged as overseer of the fifty houses on K.I.L. 1,107, 1,108, and 1,118. Other work came in from the Land Investment Co., and finally Andersen had charge as overseer of 118 houses, 50 being in Kowloon City Road and 68 in Hung Hom. Andersen had been employed by witness for about three years; his former profession was that of a sailor, and he was a Norwegian by nationality. In answer to another question by Mr. Dennys, witness said that between December, 1901, and March, 1902, the whole 118 houses were under Andersen's charge. At home a clerk of works looking after such houses would get about £3 a week—10/- a day; Andersen's wage at first was \$2 a day and \$5 a month travelling expenses; ultimately he got a rise of \$15, but the \$5 for travelling expenses was knocked off.

This concluded the examination of the witness, and Mr. Looker rose to cross-question him. Before beginning, however, he drew his Worship's attention to a misprint in the published account of Monday's proceedings, the breaking strain of certain tie-rods being set down as 61 tons, whereas in reality it was only 31 tons. Mr. Looker viewed the opportunity as a favourable one for restating his opinion that the proceedings of the enquiry should not be published till their conclusion, and then only if no one was held criminally liable, on the ground that such publication might prejudice a jury. That was the only reason for the application, and he wished to state that neither he nor his clients, Messrs. Leigh & Orange, desired on other grounds to stifle the publication of the proceedings of the enquiry. An impression to that effect appeared to have got about, but it was an entirely erroneous one.

Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, secretary of the

Land Investment Agency Co., said that on behalf of his company he desired that the widest publicity should be given to the proceedings.

The enquiry continued.

By Mr. Looker—In Hongkong there were about half-a-dozen really good contractors, and in sending out invitations for tenders the best contractors were selected. Witness considered the Loong Cheong firm one of the best in the Colony for the kind of work in question. In his original application to Government in reference to cross walls in the case of a wall exceeding 35 feet in length, witness had in mind cross walls generally, but was told that for the purposes of appeal he must particularise a case. His view that these cross walls were not necessary was supported by all the architects in the Colony. Previous to that, the question of cross walls had never been raised, and from the date of the appeal till the date of the present enquiry the clause in the Ordinance had never been enforced, although there had been hundreds of opportunities for the Government to enforce it had they wished to. If the wall at No. 30 had had a cross wall, it would have had no appreciable effect whatever in holding it up. Eight tie-bolts were put in No. 30 for the express object of holding the wall up. Tie-bolts were superior to a cross wall for the purpose of holding a wall up. The bolts on the inside wall at No. 30 were in no way displaced, and that wall was built exactly like the outside wall—the same height and the same thickness. Witness knew of lots of instances of walls with cross walls collapsing. The force that pulled the wash-plates of the bolts through the outer part of the collapsed wall must have been great, but was not equal to the breaking strain of the bolts, none of which failed. Witness mentioned this in order to point out that the means he adopted for holding up the wall were sufficient. The tie-bolts were shown in the plan submitted to the D.P.W. All the strain on the gable end of a Chinese house tended to thrust it out; it was really a detriment, as regarded an end wall, to put a cross wall in. There was no necessity under the Building Ordinance to insert tie-rods, and up to the time of the opening of the enquiry the section of the Ordinance relating to cross walls had never been enforced; as far as witness knew, it had never been enforced since the opening of the enquiry. Before commencing work on a house, the plans had to be submitted to the D.P.W., and his permission obtained for the occupation of the house. There was no question of approving plans submitted to the D.P.W. except in so far as seeing that they were in compliance with the Building Ordinance, the main object of which was the safety of the public. Previous to this summer, witness considered that collapses in the Colony were rare, and from his experience here he should say that No. 30, Kowloon City Road, was better built than the majority of Chinese houses in Hongkong.

After the adjournment for lunch, Mr. Looker resumed his cross-examination. Witness said that blue brick was considered inferior to red Canton brick, and was therefore only permitted in top stories. As to walls collapsing although supported by cross walls, instances were seen in the back walls of Nos. 50, 52, 54, and 56 of K.I.L. 1,108, where the back walls of the two upper floors fell out. Another instance was the back walls of about five houses in Hunghom, where these back walls fell out and where there were cross walls at intervals of about 14 feet. Further instances could be given, but witness did not consider them necessary. The block of houses on K.I.L. 1,107 had been passed by the P.W.D. by a certificate dated 19th March, 1902. Witness inspected that block of houses a few days before 11th March, and made a thorough examination of it. No cracks or weaknesses were then apparent in any of the walls; that was witness's final examination. The buildings at that time appeared thoroughly sound, safe, and substantial. At that time, too, the mortar in the outside walls appeared to be well set, and in witness's opinion and from his experience it was good mortar. Before the collapse and after the approval of the houses, there were, to witness's knowledge, no weaknesses apparent in the houses on K.I.L. 1,107. Since the collapse signs of weakness were apparent in the walls of that lot, but were to be seen only in the two gable walls and the back wall. These

weaknesses—cracks—were caused by the wet getting into the external walls on the weather side; the other walls on the block were now standing strong, safe, and substantial. The back wall on K.I.L. 1,108 had shown signs of cracking and weakening since 18th July and prior to 2nd August. The reasons why witness thought that the gable wall of No. 30 fell first and upon the gable wall of No. 32 were as follows:—(1) The remaining portions left standing of the gable wall at No. 30 leaned outwards, whilst those of No. 32 inclined inwards; (2) there was no brick debris to speak of inside No. 30, what was there consisting of the mortar and tiles of the roof, and the roof and floor joists, while in No. 32 the ground floor was nearly full of brick debris, showing clearly that that wall went inwards; (3) the debris from the wall of No. 30 was mostly in the 15-foot passage way between the two houses, some of it, witness thought, actually falling into No. 32; and (4) the outer face of the wall at No. 32 left standing, which included the whole of the ground floor, showed evident signs of having been struck by a mass of brick-work; the three windows on the ground floor of No. 32 were smashed inwards, whilst the external wall of No. 30 showed little sign of having been struck. In addition to all this, there was the almost impossible contingency of the wall of a Chinese house falling inwards. If the wall at No. 32 had fallen in first, this would not have affected the wall at No. 30; on the other hand, if the wall at No. 32 had fallen out, the brick debris would not have been inside the house. It was possible for the wall of No. 32 to have collapsed in such a way as not seriously to strike No. 30, but the evidence tended against this and to the theory that No. 30 fell against No. 32. The ground floor walls of both buildings were still intact, and these at the time of the collapse were quite sound. There were no reasons to suspect any subsidence of the foundations of either No. 30 or No. 32; the foundations were exceptionally good. In witness's opinion, the wall at No. 30, which collapsed first, was of sufficient thickness for safety and support; it was built in accordance with the Ordinance and the usual custom of the Colony. That was witness's opinion, despite the fact that the London Building Act of 1894 would have required a thicker wall. His reason for saying so was that the London Ordinance was looking to a house very different from a Chinese house 15 feet wide, and had it been intended to indicate Chinese houses the Ordinance would not have required a thicker wall than did the Hongkong Ordinance. If the wall had been thicker, witness was of opinion that it still would have collapsed, for the reason that it gave way owing to the squeezing out of the mortar on the outer face. If the mortar at the junction of the ground and first floors squeezed out 1-32nd of an inch, witness proceeded to explain, it would throw the top of the gable wall about 7½ inches out of plumb, a distance that would be sufficient to let down the ends of the roof joists and cause the collapse that took place. The wall that gave way was covered with two coats of plaster, with the object of keeping out the wet. Plaster was the ordinary precaution taken in the case of Chinese houses, or any houses, to keep out the wet; joints of brickwork were usually pointed in cement for the same reason. The architects of the Colony usually adopted plaster for keeping wet out of the walls of Chinese houses, and in the course of witness's 22 years' experience nothing had occurred to lead him to suppose that this was not a sufficient precaution. That precaution had been universally adopted up to the time of these collapses. Since then, witness had already modified his specifications and had adopted further means for excluding the wet from external walls. Between 11th March and 18th July, the day of the collapse, witness constantly visited the houses in Kowloon City Road, and in that period noticed no indications of cracks. Had there been any, he must have noticed them. The houses on K.I.L. 1,118, which were across the road from K.I. Lots 1,107 and 1,108, were built under the same contract by the same contractor, of similar material and design, and under the same overseer. As far as witness knew, no cracks had appeared in any of the walls of the houses on

that block, a fact that he accounted for by the circumstance that these houses faced to the west, and that their verandahs protected the outer wall from the rain. When witness said on the first day of his examination that he had noticed things wrong hundreds of times in respect of these houses in the course of his inspection, he referred to his numerous visits while the houses were in course of construction; it was exceptional to go on to a "job" without having some fault to find, and he always tried to have the fault rectified. If anything was palpably wrong, he caused it to be rectified, as was instanced in the pulling down and rebuilding of the gable wall of the northernmost house on K.I.L. 1,108.

This concluded the day's proceedings, and the enquiry was adjourned till next Tuesday.

THE FIRST STREET CASE.

An official enquiry into the collapse of the house 56, First Street on 20th July last was opened on the 1st inst. before Mr. J. H. Kemp, Acting Police Magistrate, and a common jury. Mr. H. L. Denny, Acting Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown, and Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, for the lessee and the contractor Tak Kee.

The jury was as follows:—W. F. Muat, C. M. dos Remedios and Gustav Rist.

Mr. Denny, in opening the case, stated that the enquiry was held under the Coroner's Abolition Ordinance, 17 of 1888, Section 6, as amended by the supplementary Ordinance, 7 of 1889; and it was an enquiry into the death of a person named Wong Fook, who was alleged to have come by his death in consequence of injuries received on 29th July last about 11 o'clock in the morning while he was in the kitchen of the house No. 56, First Street. He should explain, first of all, that there was a street running up from Queen's Road West, called Centre Street, and facing the market place, which was on the right hand side of Centre Street. On the opposite side were two streets, one immediately above the other, one called First Street and the other Second Street; so that the houses facing on First Street on the south side, the houses facing on Second Street on the north side of Second Street, and the houses in Centre Street to the west formed one block. The enquiry, therefore, so far as it went into the question of topography at all, was confined to the block of buildings bounded by the streets named. The house No. 56, which was the particular house they had to deal with, and all the rest of the houses in that block of buildings he had just mentioned, were vested in the executors of the late proprietor. The executors had an agent in Hongkong named Pan Chau, who had leased this block of houses to another man. No. 56 used to have on its western side a small lane and next this lane were the houses in Centre Street—the backs of the houses in Centre Street. Over this lane and between No. 56 and the Centre Street houses was what was known as a riding-floor—a one-story building on top of the lane. That was No. 58, First Street. In the early part of this year Pan Chau the agent, engaged a contractor, Tak Kee, to pull down the houses in Centre Street, and in doing this the contractor pulled down the western wall of No. 56. Before going into the case, he would ask the jury to carefully put out of their minds anything they might possibly have there in consequence of having read either newspaper reports or anything else, with reference to the other collapses that had taken place in the Colony. Each of these cases had to be tried simply and solely on its own merits. In that case it would not be necessary for the jury to go into the question of who built No. 56, First Street or how it was built—whether it was built of good or bad material—except in so far as it was necessary to consider these questions as to material when they were considering why the wall fell down. It would be shown that No. 56, First Street was an old building, that was to say, old in Hongkong. It might not be called old in Europe, where buildings stood for hundreds of years, but in Hongkong it was an old building. It was built, as far as they had been able to ascertain, and as far as any records in the Government offices showed, before 1873, and the material, he thought the jury would find, was of very poor quality—the bricks were poor, the

mortar was poor, the wall was badly built, badly bonded, and not such a wall as would be expected to withstand any very bad weather. He thought also that the jury would find that there was evidence that there were old cracks in that wall before it fell down and that they had been plastered over, but he would not go very much into the question of the material used in the building, for it would not be necessary for them to enquire into the conduct of the people who built it. The only question in the case was whether anybody had been guilty of culpable negligence in the way he had performed his duties with respect to those houses in Centre Street. It would be the duty of the jury with respect to that, to consider how far the pulling down of those houses in Centre Street was responsible for the collapse of this wall. It would be for them to say whether the architect, the contractor, or anybody else had culpably neglected his duty with respect to the way in which he had pulled down those other buildings in Centre Street and the adjoining house, 58, First Street, which really almost formed a part of those buildings: the west wall of No. 58 formed the back wall of these buildings; it would be for the jury to say whether anyone had so culpably neglected his duty as to make him guilty in law of the offence of manslaughter. There would be little doubt in their minds, he thought, after they had heard the evidence, that this western wall of 56, First Street fell down in consequence of what was done to the Centre Street houses and the adjoining house No. 58; but of course the mere fact that the wall fell down in consequence of that would not by itself render anybody guilty of negligence, or what might be called gross or culpable negligence, and it would be for them after hearing the evidence that he would bring forward—and he would bring forward as much as he possibly could—to say whether any one was guilty or was not guilty of manslaughter. Manslaughter had been defined by Sir James Fitz James Stephen as “unlawful homicide without malice aforethought,” and that, he thought, was about as good a definition as they could work upon. It was not of course suggested for a moment that anybody intended this western wall of No. 56 to fall down, but if a contractor or anybody else did his work in a careless, negligent way—if he neglected his duty by not taking the precautions which the law threw upon him, although he had no malice aforethought whatever, no intention of killing anybody or injuring property—if the immediate result of his action was that somebody was killed, he was liable to be tried for the crime of manslaughter; and if after enquiring fully into the matter, they considered that anybody had been grossly negligent, and that the consequence of that gross neglect was the death of this man Wong Fook, then it would be their duty to find a verdict against that person, and it would be his Worship's duty to commit that person for trial at the Supreme Court. To go into what might be called the history of the matter, it was very shortly this. Upon 21st May, 1902, Mr. Hazeland, at the request of Pau Chan, the agent of these houses in Centre Street, who happened to be the owner also of No. 56, First Street, sent in notice to the D.P.W., saying that he was going to reconstruct the houses 27 to 41, Centre Street, and with that notice he sent in a plan. Mr. Hazeland's stamp was on the plan and application, but Mr. Hazeland put not only his stamp on, but also these words “Plan only; no supervision,” which, of course, he took it, would be said to mean that all his duty was finished when he sent in the plan to the D.P.W.: that if that plan was according to the requirements of the Ordinance, Mr. Hazeland had nothing further to do with it. That first notice was dated 24th May, and to it was attached a plan with reference to which it might be that the jury thought there was something irregular. Whether that irregularity had much to do with the case now before them was another question, but in that plan, at the back of houses No. 27 to 33, Centre Street, was shown a covered passage-way. Now, there was no notice on the face of that plan to show that there was a house there, 58, First Street, or that people were living in it. That plan was afterwards amended, and instead of the words “covered passage-way,” were the

the words, “passage-way to be turned into lane.” He called the attention of the jury to that, because it might be that they would find that had that plan more strictly complied with the wording of the Ordinance, and shown, as he thought he was justified in saying, it should have shown, No. 56, the officer in the P.W.D. who received the notice and the plan would probably have gone down to the spot and would have seen that the dwelling-house No. 58 First Street was going to be pulled down, and he would have seen that the pulling down of No. 58 must more or less affect No. 56, and probably he would have required certain precautions to be taken with reference to No. 56. The plan, as he had put it to them, threw the officer off his guard altogether. It was perfectly true that there was a line on the eastern side of the lane which one would reasonably, looking at the plan, suppose to be a house. That was No. 58. But there was nothing whatever to suggest that No. 58 was a house or was inhabited. In one place it was called a covered passage-way, and in another it was called a passage-way, to be turned into a lane. The wording of the Ordinance with reference to these plans, in Section 69, Ordinance 15 of 1889, was as follows:—“Such plans shall show the position and levels of the surrounding grounds and buildings.” Now, he thought the jury would be told by the officer of the P.W.D. that he did not consider that the plan showed the surrounding ground and buildings. It should have shown No. 58, First Street. After that plan was sent in, certain requirements were required, chiefly, he believed, with reference to the sanitary laws, by the Medical Officer of Health; but, at any rate, finally the notice and plan were acknowledged by the D.P.W. or officer representing him. Upon the 3rd June, that was to say, while these plans were still under consideration by the D.P.W., in answer to application, a permit was granted to Tak Kee, contractor, to erect a scaffolding and hoarding on the Crown lot adjoining Nos. 27 to 41, Centre Street. That permit having been granted, he thought the jury might reasonably conclude, and he thought it would be shown, that Tak Kee then proceeded to pull down those old houses standing in Centre Street. The houses, he believed, had been closed by the Sanitary Board, and the owner appeared to have come to some arrangement with the lessee, that he would pull down and rebuild these houses, no rent being charged while they were being pulled down and rebuilt. At any rate somewhere about 3rd June or shortly afterwards Tak Kee proceeded to pull down those old houses, and in doing so he pulled down the west wall of No. 58, First Street, pulled off half the roof of No. 58, and at the same time exposed the wall on the other side of No. 58, which really was the western wall of No. 56, to the wind and weather. On 29th July, at eleven o'clock in the morning, the deceased, Wong Fook, was in the kitchen on the first floor of No. 56. He had a basin or something of that kind in his hand, and was going to the water-tap to fill it with water. The cook of No. 56 was also in the kitchen. Suddenly, without any warning of any sort, the kitchen wall of No. 56 fell outwards, and the second-floor kitchen fell down and caught this man Wong Fook and also the cook in the debris. The cook was fortunately taken out alive, and not seriously hurt, though very much frightened and shaken; Wong Fook was killed. He did not die immediately; he was taken out alive and removed to the Government Civil Hospital, where he was attended to by Dr. Lang, who would tell the jury that the man was suffering from an injury to his spine, and that on the following morning he died. He did not think that the jury would have any doubt whatever as to the cause of death: that this man died from the second-floor kitchen and a portion of this wall falling upon him; but it was not sufficient for them to find that he died through being hit by this wall. They had to go into the whole question and find out what caused the wall to fall, and if in the course of that enquiry they came to the conclusion that anybody had culpably neglected his duty, it would be for them to find a verdict against that person.

Dr. E. A. R. Ronald, assistant superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, was the first witness. He deposed that Wong Fook was

admitted to the Hospital on 29th July. On arrival the man was in a state of collapse from injuries received. Witness first saw him in the ward. The only external wounds on his body were a few scratches. He was able to speak, but very feebly. He died at 6.5 a.m. on 30th July. A post-mortem examination showed that death was due to fracture of the spinal cord. These injuries were quite consistent with a heavy weight having fallen on his body.

Chau Kai, shoemaker, stated that on 29th July he was living on the first floor of 56, First Street. On the morning of that day three *fokis* were living there also. The deceased man Wong Fook was his tenant. About 11 o'clock in the morning witness was standing at the door of the room and Wong Fook was at the water-tap with a basin in his hand, when the collapse occurred. The kitchen wall came down and the second-floor kitchen also fell down. The cook, Lu Cheung, was also in the kitchen. The wall fell on top of them. Lu Cheung eventually got out. He was not seriously hurt. Wong Fook was among the debris calling out “Save life.” His *fokis* tried to get him out but were not successful until police assistance arrived. He was discoloured and could only just speak. He was taken in an ambulance to the Government Civil Hospital. On the morning of the collapse there were wind and rain, of middling severity. The wall fell down because it had no support after the houses next door had been pulled down. Witness had lived in the house for about two years. In the first-floor kitchen there was no pillar or brick pier running from the floor to the ceiling. The houses next door were begun to be pulled down about one month before the collapse. Next to No. 56, First Street there was a lane in First Street. Before they pulled down the next door houses there was a floor in the lane; that was No. 53, First Street. That floor went back about as far as First Street as No. 56 did. People were living in No. 58 at the time they began to pull down the houses.

By Mr. Goldring—There was a pillar on the ground floor leading to the ceiling but none on the first floor. When the houses were pulled down he noticed pine-pole supports put under the floor extending the whole length of the passage. At the time of the collapse Wong Fook was at the entrance to the kitchen. The wall fell upon him, falling inwards from No. 58. The floor of the kitchen remained but the floor above fell through. The wall and the floor fell about together.

Chun On, shoemaker, who lived in the house at the time of the accident, gave evidence of a corroborative nature. He did not see the actual collapse but heard the noise of it and wanted to jump from the verandah as he was very much frightened. He saw from the front room, where he was at the time, that the kitchen was down and the dust was flying about thick. He did not jump down, however. There was no pillar from the floor to the ceiling in the first-floor kitchen.

After other evidence of a similar kind,

Lance-Sergeant Adlington went into the box. He stated that on 29th July, while stationed at No. 7 Police Station, he was called to No. 56, First Street. He turned out all the available men. On arrival at the scene of the accident they got Wong Fook from among the debris and sent him to the Hospital. He noticed some supports on the western side of the building.

By Mr. Goldring—These supports were broken off at the level of the first floor; part of the wall had fallen outwards upon the foundations of a building in course of construction.

A Chinese constable gave formal evidence.

H. E. Y. Haggard, assistant engineer in the P.W.D., having proved a plan showing the neighbourhood of First, Second and Centre Streets.

The case being resumed on the 2nd inst., E. M. Hazeland, civil engineer and architect, said he had been practising in the Colony as such for about two years and a half; before that he was assistant engineer in the P. W. D. While in the P. W. D. it was part of his duty to look after work connected with the Building Ordinance. He was acquainted with the block of buildings bounded on the east by Eastern Street, on the west by Centre Street, on the

north by First Street, and on the south by Second Street. One of the houses in that block of buildings was No. 56, First Street. At the back of houses Nos. 27, 29, 31, and a portion of 33, Centre Street, there was a covered passage-way extending back from First Street the full length of No. 56. Above this covered way was a story, but witness did not know if it was numbered, nor could he say whether or not it was inhabited. After other evidence as to the location of the houses in question, witness said he was engaged in April or May by Tak Kee to prepare plans for rebuilding Nos. 27 to 41, Centre Street. Before preparing the plans, witness personally inspected the buildings; the plans were then made under his supervision, and the plan shown him was the duplicate one sent to the P.W.D. under Section 69 of the Building Ordinance; the notice produced, dated 21st May, was also sent to the P.W.D., and bore witness's stamp, underneath which stamp a clerk employed by witness had written—"Plan only; no supervision." The notice was one regarding the commencement of work on the houses in Centre Street, and was acknowledged on 9th July. At the request of the Medical Officer of Health, witness afterwards amended the plan sent to the P.W.D. Witness was of opinion that the houses in Centre Street were old ones. When he inspected the site, he did not examine the story overlooking the covered passage-way, and could not say where access to it was to be gained. As to the pulling down of the houses, by the end of June Nos. 27 to 33, Centre Street, were demolished; he could not say who pulled them down, as he had nothing whatever to do with the process of demolition, which he did not see. Witness could not give any date as to when the new houses in Centre Street were rebuilt; with that also he had nothing whatever to do. He visited the houses on 29th July, after the collapse, at the request of the lessee of the buildings. On that occasion he went to the first floor of No. 56, First Street, and found that the second floor kitchen had collapsed on to the first floor; the western wall of the kitchen had fallen outwards as far down as the first floor, but the roof was still intact. The reason that the lessee wanted witness to inspect the houses was to prepare plans for the reconstruction of a portion of Nos. 52, 54, and 56, First Street. These houses were old, in witness's opinion. The joists of the kitchen were decayed, the walls were not level, and the place seemed to be saturated with water. The brickwork was also old, but witness did not cut into the walls, and could not say whether they were well built. He should say, however, that, judging from the condition of that portion of the western wall of No. 56 left standing, the wall was badly constructed, and there appeared to have been very little mortar used. The collapse included the whole of that portion between the cross wall and the back wall, and from the first floor to the roof. The pulling down of the western wall of the covered passage-way had the effect of only slightly exposing the western wall of No. 56 to the weather, and did not deprive it of any former support derived from the covered passage-way, as the roof and floor of that passage-way were shored up where the walls had been taken down. In witness's opinion, there was no necessity to shore up the wall of No. 56 because of the rebuilding, and what shoring-up there was was unnecessary, as the floor and roof were still standing. As far as he knew, no European was looking after the reconstruction of the houses in Centre Street.

By Mr. Goldring—The joists in all three houses, Nos. 52, 54, and 56, First Street, were in a rotten condition. The kitchen on the second floor was consequently in a weak state, and likely to collapse with the slightest extra pressure. In the event of a plan being shown him bearing the words "covered passage-way," witness would naturally infer that there was a story over that passage-way, if the plan referred to Chinese houses. He considered that the collapsed wall and similar walls if properly built should have been able to withstand greater exposure than that to which it was subjected, protected as it was by the roof and first floor of the covered passage-way and shored up in what appeared to witness to be a satisfactory manner. The shoring ran along the whole

length of No. 56 and nearly up to the roof. It was witness's opinion that the kitchen floor fell first and knocked out the side wall, because he found on his inspection a lot of broken shoring which must have been caused by a falling weight. If the side wall had fallen first the brickwork would have dispersed between the shorings. Witness knew Tak Kee and considered him to be better than the average contractor in Hongkong. He had already done several jobs for witness, who did not think that he was in the habit of sub-contracting. It was witness's opinion that sub-contracting was responsible for so much bad work in the colony. Tak Kee, to witness's knowledge, had never been involved in any collapsed houses and he had known him as a contractor for a number of years. In the P.W.D., speaking from his experience as a former official there, the inspector of buildings was the officer whose duty it was to look after old buildings. Witness did not know if any officer from the P.W.D. ever inspected the site of these houses. When witness was in the P.W.D., it was not usual to check a plan with the actual locality, and more often than not the only check upon a plan sent in by an architect lay in whatever old plans were in possession of the P.W.D., and very often he knew that plans submitted to the P.W.D. had been inspected by a person who had no knowledge of the locality, and compared with old plans in the possession of the Department. Mr. Crisp, witness believed, was the present inspector of buildings.

By Mr. Denny—Tak Kee was not a Government contractor, and was not employed by the Government. Witness employed him in building houses in Queen's Road Central about eighteen months ago, and in that case, as architect, witness supervised and superintended the work. He did not remember any other instance in which Tak Kee had been employed by him as a contractor. His reason for saying that Tak Kee never employed sub-contractors was because he was generally on the work himself; witness really could not say whether he employed sub-contractors or not. There was some stone-work connected with the rebuilding of the houses in Centre Street, and it was customary in the Colony for the contractor to give the stonework to one man, the carpentering work to another man, and so on. Whilst witness was in the P.W.D., it would have been the duty, had such a thing been customary, of the inspector of public buildings to check plans with the localities. Witness had been in the P.W.D. for about ten years, and he had very seldom known of a plan being checked with the locality. The P.W.D. was then, as it was now, undermined, and that fact might have accounted for plans not being compared with localities. Had witness known that No. 58, First Street, was inhabited, it would not have made any difference in the plan he drew up. He did not know whether or not it was Tak Kee who rebuilt the house.

Cheong Hong said he carried on a contractor's business at 23, Hing Loong Street, under the firm name of Tak Kee. He knew houses No. 52 to 58, First Street, and described them. People were living in No. 58 when he went to work, but they moved out between 15th and 25th June. No. 58 ran back from First Street to the same depth as No. 56. Witness commenced work on 28th June, and built a scaffold to take down the roofs of the houses in Centre Street. He had already sent in notices to the P.W.D.—on 3rd June. Pau Chan engaged him to pull down the houses; Pau Chan was the agent for the owner of the houses. The Sanitary Board had closed these houses, and Pau Chan engaged witness to pull down and rebuild the houses. There were eight houses to be pulled down and rebuilt in Centre Street, Nos. 27 to 41, and for that work witness was to be paid \$18,400; the terms were set down in writing. Mr. Hazland was the architect who drew up the plans for the new houses, and he knew that witness was to pull down and rebuild the houses. Except for preparing the plans, Mr. Hazland had nothing else to do with the work; he sent the plans to the P.W.D., and also got the permit from the P.W.D. Witness took Mr. Hazland to the houses and showed him over the ground. No other architect or

civil engineer was engaged by either witness or Pau Chan in connection with the work on these houses, the whole of which work witness himself undertook and performed; there was no sub-contracting. He bought all the different kinds of material himself, and set his own *foks* to work on them. He let out the scaffolding to one Sai Shing, No. 50, First Street, who put up the hoardings and the scaffolding over the old buildings. The whole of the bamboo work he agreed to do for \$110, and it was his business to see that all the adjoining buildings were properly shored up and protected. That shoring-up Sai Shing received directions for from witness, who personally superintended the work as it proceeded, going down every day. The pulling-down of four houses was finished by 24th July, these having to be done first—Nos. 27 to 33, Centre Street. On 24th July the ground where these four houses had stood was quite clear, and in pulling them down the western wall of No. 58, First Street, was also demolished; witness could not say exactly when that wall was pulled down, but it was on or before 24th July. The effect of pulling down the western wall of No. 58 would not be to expose the western wall of No. 56, because the roof still remained; the wind and rain, however, witness added, would beat against the wall. Witness was afraid that the wall of No. 56 would fall on his *foks*, so he shored it up; there was a typhoon signal up about that time. In addition to what he put up against No. 58, Sai Shing placed four shoring poles against the western wall of No. 56, and also shored at the front and back of the wall.

After the adjournment for lunch, the enquiry was resumed. Witness said the shoring was put up after the wall of No. 58 had been taken down; that was before 24th July, about 5th July. These shores were set in a hole in the ground. At the top of the shores was a plank. There was no needle going into the wall, but simply the plank. The shoring consisted each of three poles running up fan wise, every pole being three inches in diameter. A little after eleven o'clock on the forenoon of 29th July witness went to No. 56, but did not go inside; since then he had been inside, although he could not say when. He found that the second floor had fallen down on to the first floor, and that the western wall had also collapsed, the debris lying in the place where No. 58 had been. Witness could not say whether the collapsed wall was a good one or not. He blamed the man who put up the shorings, because they were rotten. Witness afterwards said it was the kitchen that was rotten. Continuing, he said that when the foundations had been excavated he sent to the P.W.D. for some one to come and see them; it was Mr. Crisp he asked, and he came and looked at the foundations. Witness had known Mr. Crisp before. He did not point out to him the shoring against the wall of No. 56; he could not say when Mr. Crisp came, but when he did come the western wall of No. 58 had fallen down. Witness immediately afterwards said it had been taken down and that it did not fall. At any rate, he said, he did not call the attention of Mr. Crisp or any other European to the shoring against the wall of No. 56. There was no typhoon on 29th July, and the collapse of the kitchen at No. 56 was simply due to the boarding and the joists being rotten. Witness was the only person responsible for the pulling down and rebuilding of the houses in Centre Street.

Mr. Denny—You have told us you were afraid the wall might fall down and hurt your *foks*. Did it not occur to you that it might fall and hurt the people in No. 56?—Yes.

Mr. Denny—Did you warn the people in No. 56?—No.

By Mr. Goldring—Witness had been a contractor in Hongkong for between 21 and 22 years, and during that time he had been continually employed in the erection of buildings in the Colony. In that time he had never had any accidents to any buildings he had been engaged upon. The houses in Centre Street were over 26 years old; witness had been in the Colony for that time. He inspected the first floor after the collapse, and saw no sign of any support for the second floor; there was a support on the ground floor. The kitchen was liable to collapse at any moment, in view of the rotten condition of the

joists and flooring. Witness thought the giving-way of the eastern wall of No. 56 caused the collapse. He put up the shoring because of the typhoon signal, but in any case it would have been necessary to use shoring. The shoring poles were three inches in diameter at their thin end, and six inches at their thick end. On the day and night prior to the collapse it had been raining heavily.

Ip Sau Chi, alias Ip Tuk, said he leased a block of houses looking on First Street, Second Street, and Centre Street to a man named Pau Chau, and amongst those houses were Nos. 27 to 41, Centre Street and Nos. 50 to 58, First Street. He did not know when the houses in First Street were built. Pau Chau was the agent for the owners of the houses. The houses in Centre Street were closed by order of the Sanitary Board on 15th April last. Pau Chau made arrangements to have them pulled down and rebuilt. The rent of all the houses was \$2.5 per month, which witness paid, along with the taxes. Pau Chau engaged Tak Kee to pull down and rebuild the old houses in Centre Street, and Tak Kee in turn engaged Mr. Hazeland as architect. Witness did not see Mr. Hazeland at the house, nor any other European. On 29th July, at 1 p.m. witness was informed of the collapse, and immediately went to view No. 56. He found that the western wall had fallen, both inwards and outwards, on the first floor kitchen. Witness saw the house on 29th July, but did not then notice the western wall, so that he could not say whether or not it was shored up. At that time the western wall of No. 58 had already been taken down; there were a lot of pine poles about, but witness did not know if they were the shoring of No. 58. As to the collapse, witness was of opinion that it was caused by the heavy rains loosening the joists of the kitchen. The roof was still standing.

Mr. Dennys—And do you say that, with the roof still standing, unsupported on its western side, the rain penetrated to the floor underneath?—I don't mean the rain only; I mean the water used in the house.

P. C. Crisp, inspector of buildings, P.W.D., said he had never seen the contractor Tak Kee before, and he had never asked witness to go and inspect the houses in the vicinity of the collapse; witness had never spoken to the man, or had any communication with him. It was correct, as Mr. Hazeland, in giving his evidence, had said, that it was witness's duty to inspect all the old buildings in the Colony, but he did not remember having inspected No. 56, First Street; he did not think he had, as he had no memo. in his book to that effect. He was acquainted with the locality of First, Second, and Centre Streets. The first time this year, within his memory, that witness went down to inspect in Centre Street, they were pulling down the old houses, which were nearly level with the ground. He went down to inspect thinking they had started the new houses. It was at the end of May or the beginning of June, witness thought, that he went down to Centre Street, in pursuance of instructions from Mr. Tooker. He could not give the exact date, witness said, on being pressed by Mr. Dennys, but he had it in his memo. book. There was nothing particular to see on the job when he got there, and he simply had a look round and went away. He could not say whether or not No. 58, First Street was inhabited at that time; he did not look at the adjoining buildings, but he saw some shoring, although he could not say exactly where it was. He had visited the houses in Centre Street since then four or five times.

By Mr. Goldring—Witness, in inspecting the old buildings in the Colony, did not take them in rotation, as it were; he always found a bundle of chits on his desk, and attended to them. He would not usually go to a particular house unless he were specially asked, but sometimes paid such a visit. It was possible that a house could go uninspected for years and years, unless attention were drawn to it, such as by the collapse of the kitchen. Lots of houses could be built without inspection, and were so built. In that case the P.W.D. did not know anything about the material used, and sometimes not even the measurements.

Witness—As to mortar, anybody knows they have no proper mortar in the Colony. For one thing, they have no lime.

His Worship—Answer the questions.

Witness had never measured plans; it was simply impossible for one man to do it. There was an engineer above him now, and witness had either to assist him or the engineer had to assist witness. The two of them had to do the whole of the Colony; ten to fourteen men might be able to get through the work—measure all the plans, and check everything. Witness had not inspected the houses in First Street since the collapse; that was Mr. Haggard's business. Witness did not see any shorings at or notice the condition of No. 58, First Street; there were shorings, but he could not say exactly where. He kept a written record of all his visits, and could tell the date of his first visit by looking up his book. Witness could not say how long it took the P.W.D. to answer a notice regarding commencement of work—it might be a week, certainly more than a day. The fact of there being shoring did not necessarily mean that a building was in danger of collapsing. In view of the shoring he saw when he visited Centre Street, it was natural to suppose some building was in danger, and he should have looked at them and reported to the P.W.D., but he had no time to do so, owing to the undermanned condition of the P.W.D.

Mr. Dennys—If it was your duty to inspect these shored-up buildings, should you not have done it when you were on the building?—I suppose I ought to have done so, but you might as well say I should inspect every other building I visit.

Mr. Dennys—You have told my friend that you considered it was your duty to inspect all old buildings. You were down there on the ground and saw the shorings—why didn't you then inspect the building?—I had other work to do.

Mr. Dennys—Have you received any instructions, written or verbal, that you are in charge of all these buildings in the Colony—any statement in writing from your superior officers in the Department saying you are in charge of all the buildings in the Colony? You have said you are.—It is an understood thing. I am inspector of buildings, and an inspector of buildings always inspects houses.

Mr. Dennys—In ordinary circumstances, you only inspect these buildings when you are ordered?—Yes, when I get a chit. But I inspect buildings when I am not ordered to do so; I am supposed to do it.

Mr. Dennys—Do you consider it your duty, without receiving instructions from anybody, to inspect all these buildings?—Yes, I do, and other people think so as well. My superiors think so.

H. E. Y. Haggard, recalled, said he was an assistant engineer in the P.W.D., and was at present carrying out the duties of an inspector of buildings. He was first in Mr. Danby's office when he came to the Colony, and joined the P.W.D. in February, 1902. Whilst witness was in London he was assistant district surveyor for East Hampstead, under the London County Council. His duties as inspector of buildings in Hongkong consisted of going through all plans sent in and referring them to Mr. Tooker, executive engineer, if anything was wrong with any of them; he had also to inspect buildings, and do other things. Mr. Tooker finally passed the plans. Looking at the plan shown him, there was nothing to indicate that there was a house over the covered passage-way between Centre Street and No. 56, First Street. Witness did not inspect the site after receiving the plans, from which he understood that 27 to 41, Centre Street were to be pulled down. He did not understand however, that the plans included the pulling down of the west wall of No. 58, First Street, or that No. 56, First Street would be affected by the pulling down of these walls. Witness did not consider that the plan produced showed the position and levels of the surrounding ground and buildings, as provided for by Section 69 of the Ordinance. The plan was afterwards amended, but even then there was nothing to put witness upon enquiry as to No. 58, First Street. He did not inspect the old buildings in Centre Street before they were pulled down, or give special instructions with reference to No. 56, First Street. He first visited No. 56 on 30th July; he had heard of the collapse on the afternoon of the 29th. Witness described the collapse as he saw it when

he visited the place. The collapsed wall had not been solidly built; the bricks were "black," of indifferent quality, badly bonded, with big mortar joints, and the mortar was more like powder than mortar. The remains of some broken shoring-poles were to be seen, and although, in the position in which they had been placed, they would be of some use, they would not have made the wall safe; there should have been extra shoring. If witness's attention had been drawn beforehand to the condition of the wall, he would probably have served a notice to have it pulled down. Portions of the roof, front wall, and floor were still standing at No. 56 at the time of witness's visit on the 30th July; the new buildings in Centre Street were then, he thought, up to the first floor. It was Mr. Crisp's business to inspect the buildings in Centre Street. After the collapse, witness examined the shoring round No. 56—on the 30th—and the poles seemed to be a fair size. The joists in No. 56 were rotten—not very rotten, but pretty bad; unless the wall bulged, however, and left the ends of the joists on the corbelling, the joists were not sufficiently bad to cause the accident. In all old houses the timbers were more or less rotten.

By Mr. Goldring—Witness did not think that a covered passage-way on a plan necessarily meant that there was a house over that passage-way; the passage-way in the present instance was only 6 feet wide. All that was done with plans sent to the P.W.D. was to see that they complied with the Building Ordinance. Witness knew most of the sites in the Colony, but did not know their measurements by heart. The P.W.D. was undermanned at present, and if everything that Mr. Goldring suggested was done, they would never get through the work. As matters stood, those in the Department were practically in the hands of anyone who sent in a plan. Regarding the collapsed wall, there were indications in the portion that remained that it was not sound. All three houses, Nos. 52, 54, and 56, were in a similar condition.

By Mr. Dennys—Anyone could send in a plan to the P.W.D., and if it conformed with the Ordinance it would probably be passed. It was not necessary to know the architect.

The enquiry was resumed at 2.15 o'clock on Friday afternoon.

H. P. Tooker, executive engineer, P.W.D., was the first witness examined by Mr. Dennys. He said he knew No. 56, First Street; it was an old three-story house, and on the west side was No. 58, First Street; witness did not know what sort of a house it was, never having seen it. He had found in the books of the P.W.D. reference to these two houses; the first one was an acknowledgment of a notice dated 21st October, 1873. That notice mentioned among other houses Nos. 50 to 58 (even numbers), First Street, and bore the initials of the then Surveyor-General. There was nothing regarding the houses before 1873, and as matter of fact witness did not know when they were built. In 1874, in January, there was a second notice regarding the houses. He concluded from these notices that the houses were built prior to 1873, under the old Building Ordinance of 1856. Witness first visited No. 56, First Street on 22nd August last, and found that the west wall near the kitchen end had fallen down, evidently collapsing outwards. The second floor of No. 56 had fallen down into the first floor, but the roof was still standing. He looked at the remaining portion of the west wall, and found it in a very bad condition. It had not been solidly built, as required by the Ordinance. Blue bricks had been used in its construction, but although they were fairly sound they were not solidly put together, there being a cavity in the centre of the wall. There was very little mortar, and that of an indifferent nature. The adjacent lane was covered with debris, and the house above it, No. 58, was practically collapsed. A little remained, and that was attached to No. 56. Witness had never previously inspected No. 56, or been inside it. His opinion as to the collapse was that the wall fell because it was in such a bad condition that it could not support itself. It had also been exposed to the weather by the pulling-down of No. 58, First Street, which operation deprived the collapsed wall of support. The front wall of No. 58

formerly abutted on No. 56, on the east side; and this wall formed a strut between the houses in Centre Street and No. 56. The propping-up of that portion of No. 58 which remained would give no support to No. 56. The support having been withdrawn from No. 56, it was the duty of the man who was pulling down the houses in Centre Street and No. 58, First Street to have removed the occupants of No. 56 and pulled down its western wall. There was no reference on the notice sent to the P.W.D. to houses in First Street, and looking at the plan shown him, witness did not think there was a house or habitation over the covered passage-way referred to by previous witnesses. There was nothing in the plan in fact, to put him on enquiry as to the houses in question, and he considered that the houses referred to were solely those in Centre Street. The plans did not conform with Section 69 of the Building Ordinance; they did not show the position and levels of the surrounding ground and buildings. Witness saw some remains of shoring when he visited No. 56, First Street, and it looked to be of the average sort; it appeared to him, however, that the wall had not been properly shored up. The only effectual way of dealing with the wall of No. 56 was to have pulled it down.

By Mr. Goldring—Witness had not measured house No. 56 on the ground, and it was possible that a portion overlapped L.L. 758, where No. 58 is situate. To his knowledge, there was no record in the P.W.D. showing that the houses had been inspected since they were built, and he personally could not say whether they were or not; he could not even say if it was likely they had been inspected. Cracks were to be seen in the wall at No. 56 before it collapsed. There was no official in the P.W.D. whose duty it was to inspect old buildings in the Colony, so that nothing could be done in the way of ascertaining their condition and taking any steps that were considered necessary. If the collapse had not occurred, the cracks in the wall would have been growing worse and worse, and unless some official saw them and made a report, nothing would be done. The words "covered passage" did not convey to his mind that there was a house above that passage; there were not many such passages—passages without houses overhead—in the Colony; had he thought of there being a house overhead in the present case, he might have made a personal inspection of the site, or sent someone to do so. A plan should be correct in itself, and it was not checked on the ground unless there was something palpably wrong with it when it was sent in to the P.W.D. He did not think that the failure to check the plan in the present case was responsible for a good deal of what happened. Witness inspected the ground floor of No. 56, and found that the supporting pillar of the first floor was broken away near the top. That defect, however, had not caused the collapse.

By Mr. Denny—Neither the notice nor the plan sent to the P.W.D. made any reference to the houses in First Street, and such reference should have been made; according to the Ordinance.

Mr. Tooker's cross-examination by Mr. Goldring gave rise to many amusing passages, which proved a welcome relief from the dry tedium of the enquiry.

Hon. W. Chatham, the Director of Public Works, said he had been in the P.W.D. here for about twelve years and a half. He knew nothing whatever about No. 56, First Street, which appeared from the records to have been built before 1873. He inspected the house on 20th August and before that had already received reports from his officers. After describing the nature of the collapse as it appeared to him on his first visit, witness said he did not recollect noticing any prominent defect in that portion of the wall of No. 58 still standing. The demolition of the wall of No. 58 had deprived No. 56 of support on that particular side, and the loss of that support was not compensated for by the shoring placed against No. 56. The collapsed wall was by no means solidly built, and was constructed of blue bricks; there was evidence of a great want of bond, and the mortar was of very poor quality. Witness attributed the collapse to the removal of No. 58 and the want of substituted support, added to the very bad quality of the work and exposure to the weather. It would have been a prudent course to remove the people in No.

56, but it was really a question of watching the exposed party wall carefully and properly supporting it. The plan produced indicated No. 56, First Street, but not No. 58; it was not necessary to show No. 58, as the house was not to be reconstructed. The plan really showed everything that was needful, the only point being that something should have been shown so as to make good the party wall which was to be removed between Nos. 56 and 58. It was the duty of the person in the P.W.D. receiving a plan to inspect the site, and if as a result he thought the plan required amending, to have it amended; the mere propping-up of a wall did not necessitate such an amendment. If attention was called to the bad condition of a wall, it would be inspected by an officer of the P.W.D. and a notice served on the owner to take the necessary steps.

Mr. Denny (after reading the section in the Ordinance) Was it not necessary that that plan should have shown the houses to be pulled down as well as those to be rebuilt?—The wording of the Ordinance certainly requires it. According to that, No. 58 ought to have been mentioned.

Mr. Denny—There was nothing on the plans to show that No. 58 was going to be pulled down?—No.

Mr. Denny—Without mentioning No. 58, the owner had no right to pull down any portion of it?—No.

By Mr. Goldring—The words "covered passage-way" on a plan would not necessarily lead to the presumption that there was a house overhead. Plans sent in to the P.W.D. usually showed what buildings were to be pulled down. The party wall between Nos. 56 and 58, First Street was exposed by the demolition of No. 58. The necessity for the support arose from the inherent defect of the wall itself, which, it could be seen, was an old one. In the event of a plan bearing the words "Plan only; no supervision," there was no systematic supervision undertaken by the P.W.D. Witness did not see why the Government should provide property-owners with supervision; property-owners should have some responsibility. Had there been a pillar between the first and second floors the collapse probably would not have taken place.

F. T. B. Hewitt, building surveyor and a Civil servant employed by the War Department, related his qualifications and experience, and said he had been attached to the Royal Engineers out here since June, 1901. He had visited No. 56, First Street three times since the collapse, and had been up on the roof and into the houses in the vicinity, including what remained of No. 58. His first visit was made on 28th August, when he noted the nature of the collapse. This he described to the Court. He should say that the second-floor kitchen floor, which had fallen down on the first floor, did not fall on account of any defects it possessed of itself; it was an old floor, but not in need of renewal. The roof was in its ordinary position, but damaged at the western end; this he discovered on his second visit. The joists of the roof of No. 56 were good, and must have been so, for they remained in position when the support of the western wall of No. 58 was withdrawn. The first floor withstood the shock of the second floor falling upon it, and did not sag, as far as he could see, in the slightest degree; the damage on the ground floor was trifling, the brick pier there being minus only a brick or two at the top; witness was quite satisfied that had nothing to do with the collapse. He did not think there was much water about, and had there been formerly, witness was of opinion the joists would have shown the effects much plainer than they did. To sum it up, the kitchen floors and ceiling were in a good condition. The portion of wall left standing did not appear to be in good condition. There were cavities in it due to the uneven size of the bricks, and it was not properly bonded. Altogether, the wall was not a well built one. The pulling down of the other houses had deprived No. 56 of support, to compensate for which shoring was necessary. The shoring he saw he did not consider to be good shoring, although it was of the class usually employed in Hongkong. (Witness handed in a rough sketch showing how, in his opinion, shoring ought to be carried out.) He did not consider that the shoring at No. 56 was adequate.

As to the plan shown him, he did not think anyone was entitled, judging from what was shown on that plan, to touch No. 58, because, being a numbered house, it was not mentioned in the notice, which spoke only of houses 27 to 41, Centre Street.

By Mr. Goldring—Witness considered there were indications before the collapse that the wall needed support.

The enquiry was adjourned.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 29th September.

THE ROYAL BIRTHDAY.

The birthday of their Majesties the King and Queen of Portugal was loyally and successfully celebrated in Macao yesterday, when delightful weather favoured the festivities. In the morning at half-past eight a *Te Deum* was sung in the Cathedral, and the service was attended by all the officials and the naval and military officers in full dress. At ten o'clock there was a reception at Government House, and at five o'clock in the afternoon there was a parade at the Barracks, when a new flag worked by the ladies of Macao, which had been consecrated at the morning service, was presented to the troops. In the evening there was a ball given by the Acting Governor at Government House, and the Praya was tastefully decorated with Japanese lanterns. H.M.S. *Moorhen* arrived on Friday for the occasion, and will leave again to-day for Hongkong.

A FRENCH FLEET.

Last Wednesday a French fleet arrived here—not, however, such as was calculated to inspire fears of an attack on Hongkong and Macao in these modern times, useful as they might have been a thousand years ago. They were in fact only trading junks from Kwanchauwan with various cargoes, more interested in their own business than in the glorious future of the State whose flag they bore.

LOCAL ITEMS.

The weather here of late has been cool and bright, and yesterday there was a large number of visitors from Hongkong and Canton. Unfortunately dengue fever has claimed a much larger number of victims lately, but now as before it appears in a mild form.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 29th September.

A BIG FIRE.

It is a custom in Canton about this time every year to fight crickets for the purpose of gambling. It is much the same as cock-fighting in Manila, for large sums of monies are staked. In a place named Pa Chow, not far from here, about two hours' voyage by steam launch, there are some large matcheds for theatricals, restaurants, and cricket-fighting, and large numbers of flower-boats went there to accommodate the guests. About 2 o'clock in the morning of the 26th inst. the theatre caught fire, the flames spreading all round and burning the matcheds and several flower-boats. A large number of people were killed, estimated at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred. It is suspected to be an act of incendiarism by some thieves, who went there to follow their profession.

THE NEW VICEROY.

It is customary in China that to be a viceroy or governor of a province one must be old and possess great experience in official affairs. H. E. Li Hing Yui, the provincial governor of Canton, is 78, five years older than H. E. Tak Sow, the Acting Viceroy. But he is still strong and healthy.

AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Last year an agricultural institution was established by permission of the Viceroy in Houam. It was under the management of Yip Man Chun and others. By the sale of manures this institution was making a good load of money. Somehow or other the partners disagreed, and one of them petitioned the Viceroy, and by order of His Excellency the institution was closed and its business stopped. Seeing that a good chance of making money was thus lost, fresh arrangements were made

among the partners, and the institution has now been reopened.

A DISAPPOINTED JUDGE.

A certain graduate of the district of Sun Ui, by name Chan Sew Shang, is rich, and is consequently one of the best friends of the late governor of Kwangsi. The latter appointed him a provincial judge in Kwangsi. The officials here heard of this news and were very much surprised, as he has not passed through all the necessary gradations of ranks to be appointed to such a high position; so three days after his appointment the newly appointed governor of Kwangsi, Wong Chee Chon, ordered Chan to take the seals of office to Wuchow, and hand them over to another of the new Kwangsi judges.

CHENG TU.

Chengtu, 4th September.

THE SITUATION.

It is difficult to describe the present situation, or to forecast with certainty the future. The greatest loss of life and property thus far has been in the Kintang and Chungkiang districts, which lie to the north-east of the capital and within sixty miles from the city. This region has no Protestant missions, but the Roman Catholics are strong, and they have lost in this region over 1,000 members slain, and every chapel outside of the two cities destroyed.

SEVERAL BATTLES.

There have been several battles fought, with varying success, within 20 miles of the city, and the robbers were last week encamped to the number of over 3,000 about eight miles from the city gate. The tactics of these marauders is to plunder the Christians and extort money from the gentry without reference to their religious connections, and, if a large body of troops appear, to disperse in small bands and gather somewhere else. The troops are not attacked unless they outnumber their opponents. This gives the "Feitou" ample opportunity to disperse.

A VILLAGE DESTROYED.

In the Chungkiang district lives an expectant Taotai, whose son is studying English and mathematics in the city. His village was attacked, but rallying the "twan," he fought off the "Feitou" for over a week, but the Chungkiang Magistrate could send no relief and the Imperial troops, though not 20 miles away, dare not go to the relief of the village. The village was mostly destroyed, and many women and children killed, as well as men. There was not a single Christian in the village.

THE PRESIDENT VICEROY

lacks decision, and no energetic move is being or has been made. The official in the Foreign Office said that the various district officials do not care to stop these troubles, as they will make money out of it. It looks as though the Foreign Office was also on the make. It is reported that the official of a neighbouring mission was obliged to pay the Foreign Office 200 taels on account of a small theft from a mission. It is needless to say that not a cash of this went to the mission.

THE NEW VICEROY.

Business is seriously affected by these disorders, and everybody looks forward to the coming of the new Viceroy, who is expected about the 18th September. His reputation has extended from Shansi here, and when he comes the people say he will put down Boxers and robbers.

WILD RUMOURS.

The Examiner, who is a Banner man, arrived here yesterday. The city is very full of students; about 13,000 are said to have already arrived. But the city is even fuller of wild talk. Exaggerative reports of outrages are constantly coming concerning places where there is no serious trouble.

THE RICE HARVEST

has commenced, and through the Tsichou section and Tungchuanfu it is about a half crop. But to the west and south of Chengtu it is an unusually good crop.—N.C. Daily News.

A shield, commemorative of the Interport Cricket of 1901, is to be affixed to the walls of the pavilion of the Singapore Cricket Club. The shield bears the names of the Straits Settlements team and is also inscribed with the names of the Straits Settlements, Hongkong, and Shanghai Cricket Clubs.

CHUNGKING.

Chungking, 11th September.

THE BOXER MOVEMENT

in this province still spreads and the officials are hard put to cope with it. The latest news is that, under a leader named Liu, 600 men, armed with gingals, are encamped in a fortified *chai* at Anjo, a town situated west of Hochow and Suining, about fifty miles to the north-west of Chungking and near the high road hence to Chengtu. Our city of Chungking is to be attacked, without and within, on the day of the mid-autumn Festival, the 18th instant, but these threatened irruptions seldom eventuate, as your readers will learn by telegram, negatively, so to speak, before this letter is read by them. The officials here are on the alert and making the best show they can with their scanty resources. The garrison of this place, nominally 1,000 but actually about 200 men, has gone in part to attack the rebels. The question is, How far can the troops be relied upon? In the recent encounter outside the gates of Chengtu, they certainly made a very poor exhibition, considering that these, the Viceroy's men, are foreign-drilled and armed with magazine rifles, while the wretched Boxers carry only knives and here and there a gingal. Altogether in this vast province there are probably not more than 5,000 or 6,000 regularly-drilled troops, and these are scattered in small contingents. Every threatened place calls out for troops, and Boxers, or bandits, which is much the same thing, appear to be ubiquitous. Foreign travellers are a cause of much anxiety to the military; the French Consul, who left for Chengtu last month, had a guard given him of 400 men, and two missionaries, who left for the capital about the same time, forced the Taotai, in his anxiety lest he should have to answer for a European life, to send along with them a guard of 97 soldiers. The object of the latter's journey was to distribute tracts to the students upon their issue from the Examination Hall in Chengtu at the termination of the triennial examination now in progress there, the very time when disturbance is probable. On the other hand the British Consul is doing all in his power to dissuade British subjects from travelling with the view, apart from the risk they run, of lessening the embarrassments of the hard-driven officers. The trouble has no doubt come to a head through the feeble character of the old Viceroy Kwei Chun, a Manchu who is entirely in the hands of a parcel of the most reactionary anti-foreign mandarins in the province. The new Viceroy, Tsên, who is now hastening down from Shansi by forced marches, is reported to be a strong man: he is 44 years of age and the son of the late Viceroy of Yunnan.—N.C. Daily News.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the P. & T. Times of the 20th ult.:—

The arbitrators on the British-Russia railway question held their third session on Wednesday, and meet again to-day.

We are sorry to hear that Major Menzies has broken a rib at Shanhaikwan, through the capsizing of a Russian cart.

We hear that the sentence on Private Jones, R.W.F., in connection with the recent court-martial verdict is one year's hard labour.

The departure of Major Grimston involves some changes in the General's staff. Captain Young becomes D. A. A. G. in place of the Major, and Lieut. St. John takes Captain Young's place as A. D. C. to General Creagh, V.C., C.B.

His Tientsin friends will be glad to learn that Major-General Wogack has had the honour of an audience with H. I. M. the Tsar, and has been decorated with the Order of St. Vladimir, Third Class, with crossed swords.

A local statistician writes to us that he has counted thirty foreign houses in course of erection in the British Municipal Extension alone. We presume that it would be within the mark to double this number for the whole of the Concessions.

The adopted son of the eunuch Li has been appointed to a good position in the Board of Revenue, a plum usually only falling to officials of ten years' standing. This is of course the

result of the Dowager's recent recommendation, made in consideration for his quasi-father's losses in 1900.

We hear on good authority that the Japanese have struck artesian water at their boring at or near the Hai Kwan Ssu at a depth of 400 feet. It is stated that they are about to try another boring in the British Municipal Extension, though we have personally failed to detect the locality. This discovery, interesting as it is, is of less importance than it would have been ten or even five years ago, as the Tientsin Waterworks Company is now a going and well established concern, meeting our wants admirably.

A wise step has been taken by the Tientsin Magistrate in legislating against public coolie gangs which have recently been dominating various sections of the city and terrorising business folk. They have bullied and blustered unfortunate traders into employing them whether they wish to or not, and at their own terms, until a man dared not carry his own bundles. The Magistrate now declares these coolie companies illegal, and orders all native merchants to employ their own coolies under a headman, who will be held responsible for the good behaviour of his gang.

The acceleration of the new train service is most marked: the Peking and Shanhaikwan mail train is scheduled for 1h. 45m. less than in the old table. This train has no accommodation for more than ordinary baggage, but subsidiary trains meet all demands in this direction. We now have four trains daily to Tongku: 6.45, 10.25, 12.22, 16.15 down; and 6.55, 10.18, 13.50 and 16.10 up.

Westinghouse air-brakes have been refitted to the mail trains between Peking and Tientsin to the indefinite economy of time in approaching and pulling up at the stations, to say nothing of the greater safety of the passengers. We heartily congratulate both the administration and the public on the restoration.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS,"
Hongkong, 29th September.

SIR,—Referring to the allusion made to his colleagues at the last ordinary meeting of the shareholders, as men of business and experience, the Chairman, no doubt, meant to imply that implicit confidence should be placed in them as men of superior talents, and a disregard of that fact would be construed by them as a vote of want of confidence as shown by the Chairman's subsequent remarks.

That directors in a public company are generally elected because of their superior administrative capacity is unquestionably true; but to think for one moment that, from amongst the rest of shareholders, there are none to be found of equal, if not superior capacity, is quite erroneous. In his letter in the *Daily Press*, dated the 22nd August, a correspondent very properly said about the Chairman of the Dock Co. that it was not his personality that influenced the shareholders to elect him, but the consideration of his being the representative of a contributing shipping firm.

As a matter of fact, directors have been known to fall into such grave errors, that only men devoid of any reflective faculties are liable to commit. And such errors were perpetrated notwithstanding timely warnings given them, either directly or through the Press, by the rest of the shareholders. The corollary to this is that directors are not always a safe guide to follow. The shareholder must altogether dismiss the idea from his mind that "the directors' interests are the same as his, and that they know more about the Company's affairs than he does." "This supposed unity of interests," as Mr. Spencer says, "often does not exist—the interests of the directors may be in sundry ways at variance with those of proprietors."

The mere fact that a director, according to the Dock Co.'s articles, is allowed to enter into contracts with the Co. of which he is a director, and participate in the profits of such contracts, should be a conclusive proof that the directors

are not after all disinterested in their administration of the Co.'s affairs. It is true that in connection with such contracts, the articles provide that a director's vote will not count, yet the fact remains that he can attend the meeting and take part in the discussion that may arise—thus influencing the vote of his colleagues. And it also must be noted that the Company Ordinance of Hongkong disqualifies such a director from remaining on the board. It becomes therefore imperative that shareholders should carefully and minutely examine the accounts and reports submitted by the directors at general meetings. The directors by reason of the receiving fees for their services are no more or less servants of the shareholders.

That some of the directors failed to realise their position in a public Co. and thus misused the power intrusted in them has been clearly proved by past and present events, and I have only to cite the authority of that eminent philosopher Mr. Herbert Spencer on this important subject. In his essay on the reform of Company law, he writes:

"So far as I have observed, projects for company-law reform have concerned only the methods pursued in the formation of companies. They have had for their aims to restrain the fraudulent doings of promoters, and to prevent delusion of the public by the parading of apparently responsible directors whose influential names have been indirectly purchased. But no thought appears to have been given to abuses existing in the administrations of established companies. Extremely grave evils are, however, to be observed in these, and it is high time they should be checked. . . . How directorial power should be curbed is a difficult question to answer. More deliberation might perhaps be insisted on. Measures of importance are too easily decided and carried out by boards of directors. Should there not be restraints akin to those which our two legislative houses impose on themselves by requiring a second and a third consideration? That there exists, in some cases at least, as I have ascertained, a course of business which involves re-considerations is true; but something more systematic would probably be beneficial. It may also be reasonably asked whether all measures implying considerable changes, or expenditures of large amounts, should not be referred to the proprietary, whether before a final decision there should not be something like a referendum. . . . But would not anything like a referendum be a great hindrance to business? Hindrance? Yes, this is exactly the thing wanted. Within the last fifty years a hundred millions of capital have been lost from want of such hindrances. Abuses which might readily have been foreseen have arisen from the practice of making the chairman of a board of directors also chairman of the meeting of proprietors—abuses which would not have existed had there been a practice like that which, in the House of Commons, results in a speaker who is independent alike of the party in power and of the opposition. The present arrangement is conspicuously absurd. At a periodical gathering of shareholders the directors have to render an account of their stewardship, and to ask for the shareholders' approval of what they have done. Yet such being the purpose it is thought proper that the chief steward shall preside and regulate the proceedings! Of course as chairman he has large power of impeding opponents and aiding those who support the board. He may assert that a speech is out of order, or that it must be ended from lack of time, or that other business must be brought forward; or appointed mouth-pieces of the board in the meeting may interrupt or contradict; so that, save in cases of extreme misbehaviour arousing the general anger of the proprietary, there is little chance that an opposition will make itself fairly heard. But it needs no detail to show that if you give a board whose doings are to be examined power over the proceedings of the examined body, that power will inevitably be used to hinder investigation and prevent blame. Do I hope for any results from these protests, or any such protests? No: there is a conclusive reason why no changes of the kind required will be made. Three out of four of our legislators have seats on one or other board of directors: some of them seats on many boards. The reforms made by them in their capacity of legislators would restrict their powers in their

capacity of directors. Any one who expects that they will thus sacrifice themselves takes a view of human nature altogether at variance with experience."—Yours, etc.,

REFORM.

MR. LOOKER AND THE PRESS AT THE BUILDING ENQUIRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 1st October.

SIR,—In your issue of this morning it is reported that on the enquiry at the Magistracy yesterday, at which I was myself present, Mr. Looker renewed his application for the suppression of the publication of the proceedings, which application was opposed by Mr. Shelton Hooper and was again refused by the Magistrate. This report is incorrect. What actually took place is as follows:—Mr. Looker, after first correcting the mistake which appeared in the report of Mr. Leigh's evidence in your issue of yesterday, by reference to the Magistrate's notes, stated that he took advantage of that opportunity to refer to the application he had previously made that the proceedings should not be published in the newspapers at the present stage. Such application, Mr. Looker said, had not been made by him in consequence of any desire, expressed by his clients, that publication should not be given to the proceedings—they, on the contrary, desired that the whole matter should be fully made public—but because he himself had not considered it right and proper that, while subsequent proceedings were possible, the evidence given on the enquiry should be published beforehand, and more especially if the report in the newspapers of such evidence was incomplete and inaccurate. Mr. Looker then remarked upon the frequency with which most inaccurate reports of legal proceedings appeared in the local newspapers, in which remarks Mr. Dennys concurred. Immediately afterwards Mr. Shelton Hooper arose and stated that he, also, on behalf of his Company, desired full publicity to be given to the proceedings.—Yours, etc.,

C. D. WILKINSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
10, Queen's Road.
Hongkong, 1st October.

SIR—In the report of these proceedings in your issue of this morning the following passages occur:—

- (a) "Mr. Looker viewed the opportunity as a favourable one for repeating his application that the proceedings of the enquiry should not be published till their conclusion and then only if no one was held criminally liable on the ground that such publication might prejudice a jury."
- (b) "Mr. Hooper opposed the application."
- (c) "The application was again refused."

In the paragraph also appearing in respect of the enquiry in another column it is also stated:—

"Mr. H. W. Looker, solicitor, who is appearing for the architects, Messrs. Leigh and Orange, made the oversight the occasion of a renewed application for the suppression of the publication of the proceedings. An application that was again refused by His Worship, Mr. F. A. Hazeland."

We are instructed to call your attention to the fact that no such application was made yesterday by Mr. Looker and consequently it was not opposed by Mr. Hooper or refused by the Magistrate; nor has any application been made at any time by Mr. Looker for the suppression of the publication of the proceedings; but only that the publication should not take place at the present stage. What Mr. Looker said yesterday was that he wished to state—because a mistaken impression appeared to exist—that his clients had not the slightest wish or desire that the publicity of the proceedings should be in any way stifled and to point out that his previous application, if granted, would not have had the effect of stifling publicity because, if any one was committed for trial, the case would be then fully reported and, if no one was committed, there was no objection, as he had stated before, to the proceedings being published when they were concluded. Mr. Hooper

simply stated on behalf of the Land Company that they wished the fullest publicity.

As the report of yesterday's proceedings in your paper, as quoted above, is the opposite of what occurred, and is calculated to create a misleading impression in the minds of any person reading it which might operate to the prejudice or to the misjudging of our clients, we are further instructed to request you to publish this letter, in the accuracy of which Mr. Hooper concurs, in your issue to-morrow.—Yours, etc.,

DEACON & HASTINGS.

[We append a transcription of our representative's notes of the remarks made by Mr. Looker on this occasion. The italics are our own. Having drawn attention to the misprint which we have already corrected, that of the breaking strain of certain tie-rods being 61 tons instead of 31 tons, Mr. Looker proceeded:—"Your Worship, I take this opportunity of stating—in the first place, because it is convenient to me, and in the second place because there seems to be a misunderstanding or wrong impression—that there is no desire whatever on the part of Messrs. Leigh & Orange or of myself to stifle these publications. Your Worship will remember that I objected to the reports appearing in the papers because somebody might be held to be criminally liable and there might be subsequent criminal proceedings. On the other hand, if these proceedings do not take place, as I said, there can be no objection whatever to the reports appearing. When I objected to the proceedings being published, my friend Mr. Dennys, in rather opposing my objection, said that it would be a very great public service for these reports to appear. If it is a great public benefit, a man should be made to say what he really said, and what he says should not be exaggerated, or it should not be reported, at all. If that is not done, then I submit that it is in the interests of the public and of the persons connected with this enquiry that these reports should not be published until the final moment, because then there can be no longer any objection to publishing them."

Mr. Looker then went on to "protest generally against the way legal cases were reported in the papers," and when he had finished Mr. Shelton Hooper said:—"Your Worship, as representing the owners, I wish to state that so far as the Land Investment Company is concerned, and it is concerned as much as anybody else, we wish the widest publicity to be given to these proceedings."—ED. D.P.]

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first ordinary general meeting, to be held at the Offices of the General Agents, on the 23rd inst., at noon:—

The General Agents and Consulting Committee beg to submit to the shareholders the final accounts for the year 1901 and an estimate of the present year's working to the 30th ult.

1901 Account.—The result of the year's working is a credit balance of \$270,056.99, out of which, and with the approval of the shareholders, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 28 per cent. (= \$14 per share), to add \$5,000 to the reserve fund raising the reserve to \$1,250,000, and to carry forward the balance of \$30,056.99 to the current year's account.

1902 Account.—This account shows an estimated balance at credit of \$579,514.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since the last meeting Mr. D. Gillies has resigned his seat and left for home, his subsequent death being a matter of great regret to the General Agents and Consulting Committee. Mr. White has also resigned his seat. To meet these vacancies Messrs. D. E. Brown and J. H. Lewis were nominated and their appointment requires the confirmation of shareholders. The present members, Sir C. P. Chater, Messrs. D. E. Brown, F. Maitland, J. H. Lewis and Dr. M. Moses retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and R. Chatterton Wilcox, the latter acting in place of Mr. Fullarton Henderson who has left the Colony. Messrs. W. H.

Potts and R. Chatterton Wilcox offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 30th September.

The accounts are as follows:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

For the year ending 31st December, 1901.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital subscribed	\$2,500,000.00		
Amount paid-up	500,000.00		
Reserve fund	1,200,000.00		
Outstanding dividends	6,639.00		
Outstanding bonus	826.85		
Accounts payable	131,714.22		
Balance of working account, 1901	270,056.99		
	\$2,112,237.06		
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cash, on current account with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	95,702.56		
Fixed deposits—			
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	100,000.00		
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	25,000.00		
Mercantile Bank of India, Limited	50,000.00		
Guaranty Trust Company of New York	50,000.00		
Mortgages	1,213,220.19		
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, debentures	94,000.00		
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1856	54,102.93		
United States bonds (4 per cent. loan, 1925)	400,000.00		
Interest accrued but not yet payable	30,211.38		
	\$2,112,237.06		

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1901.

To amount brought forward from last account	\$	c.
	81,448.57	
To net premia received, less returns and re-insurances	1,378,129.18	
To exchange	9,186.27	
To interest	127,025.78	
Transfer fees	66.00	
	\$1,598,855.80	

By losses and claims paid	\$	c.
	1,114,673.19	
By charges, including directors', auditors' and survey fees, agents' expenses, &c.	89,078.98	
By commissions	125,046.64	
By balance as above	270,056.99	
	\$1,598,855.80	

ESTIMATE OF WORKING ACCOUNT.

To the 30th September, 1902.

Dr.	\$	c.
To premia, less re-insurances	1,137,400.00	
To interest, received and accrued	95,000.00	
To exchange	345.00	
To transfer fees	29.00	
	\$1,232,774.00	
Cr.	\$	c.
By losses paid and outstanding	488,260.00	
By charges paid and accrued	75,000.00	
By commissions do.	90,000.00	
By balance	579,514.00	
	\$1,232,774.00	

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LD.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held in the offices of Company on the 27th ult. Mr. J. H. Lewis presided and there were also present the Hon. C. S. Sharp, Hon. C. W. Dickson, Hon. R. Shewan, and Mr. C. H. Thompson (Consulting Committee), Capt. A. E. Hodgins, Messrs. W. S. Bailey, W. Parlane, C. A. Tomes, H. P. White, (Secretary), R. C. Wilcox, J. Hastings, T. H. Reid, J. A. Fredericks, H. A. Meyer, A. R. Ezekiel, G. Somerville, Ho Fook, Ho Cheung Shui, Chun King Yue, Chun Yok Ting, M. Mahomed, E. G. Remedios, J. E. Gomes, J. M. de Graca, J. M. Gomes, W. F. McIntosh, and others.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I propose with your consent to take them as read. The almost universal depression in shipping has accentuated the keenness of the competition on our coast lines, but as the result of our year's working profits, we still continue to retain the confidence of shippers generally. As regards the prospects for the current year, the *Haimun* and *Formosa* are under charter to the United States Government until the end of December, and it is not improbable that these

charters may be continued for a further period. The earnings of the other steamers of the Company in the meantime are fairly satisfactory, and it is not unreasonable to hope that in the not very distant future there will be a steady revival of trade to compensate us for the increasing cost of working expenses. There is nothing further that I can usefully add, gentlemen, but before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

No questions being asked,

The CHAIRMAN formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. PARLANE—I beg to second the proposal that the report and accounts be adopted. The report is not a very satisfactory one, but considering the circumstances, and having regard to the opposition that has been made during the year, I think it is fairly satisfactory that the general managers can recommend a dividend of 6 per cent.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. T. H. REID proposed that the Hon. R. Shewan, Hon. C. S. Sharp, Hon. C. W. Dickson and Mr. C. H. Thompson be re-elected to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. W. S. BAILEY seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Ho Fook, seconded by Mr. A. S. ANTON, Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business, gentlemen. I am very much obliged for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 29th September.)

We have been reminded by the publication within the past fortnight of the reports of the Cricket and Football Clubs, as well as by a welcome, if only temporary, change in the temperature that the season for sport is now at hand in Hongkong. This Colony is peculiar among ports in the Far East in the length of its "dead" season, so that whereas our neighbours, with equally hot or hotter climates, have been busy with cricket and even football, we are still looking forward to the first matches at either game. We do not know that medical experts declare the Hongkong summer more enervating than that of Shanghai or Singapore, or whether those places have a more hardy set of residents. All that is certain is that we prefer our principal games to be played only during one and the same part of the year.

Of course, it is not correct to say that cricket has not commenced yet in Hongkong, for the report of one military match has already appeared in these columns and practice games may be seen in the Happy Valley. But the Club's season, which is after all the cricket season of Hongkong, does not open for another week. There is therefore just time to look around before the first ball is bowled. All interested in local cricket, if they were not present at the Cricket Club's meeting on the 22nd instant, have probably taken a note of the discussion which then took place. Curiously enough, however, the subject which most calls for discussion was really not discussed at all, though it was alluded to more than any other subject. Needless to say, I refer to what the chairman on Tuesday called "the want of interest taken in cricket in Hongkong during the past three years." The young men, it is true, were reproached for this lack of interest, but none of them (I apologise to Mr. F. B. Deacon and others for classing them for the nonce with the "old men") uttered a word in reply. The nearest approach to such reply was the very sensible suggestion made by Mr. Goldring at the end of the meeting that two practice-nets should at stated times be reserved for civilian members of the Club. This really touches the spot, and the members of the H.K.C.C. Committee should ask themselves what encouragement do young civilians get from the Club on joining. The experience of not a few is a scramble for occasional practice at the nets after office hours, perhaps (if they are lucky) a trial in one pick-up or off-day match, and neglect for the rest of the season.

Now various prominent members of the Club suggest that somebody (not themselves) should

go round encouraging young men in business houses to come and join the H.K.C.C. Such a peregrination might be of use if the encouraging missionary were to assure the young men that they would occasionally get a little cricket by joining. I refuse to believe that the junior civil residents of Hongkong are incapable of playing a decent game of cricket. Yet look at the recently published averages and see how many of them played eight innings during the season. This of course is the result of the policy of "giving old So-and-so a chance," a policy which was not even absent during the Interport Cricket Week last November. It is very kind to old So-and-so, but not encouraging to several young Someone-elses, who are far better cricketers and whose subscriptions to the Club are found very useful.

The institution of more junior matches would do something to improve matters, if they were taken seriously—which they do not seem to be at present. The healthy rivalry of the various Shanghai cricket clubs may be unobtainable here, but it seems lamentable that nothing can be done to improve local civilian cricket. The foundation of the Civil Service Cricket Club was a welcome event, but it is only a small step in the right direction.

The football season is now upon us and there is every prospect of its being a good one, at least as far as the Association game is concerned. Several new, good, and experienced players have recently arrived and teams stronger than those of the past season may be expected in the field. It is well also that the Shield competition should commence a little earlier, as a number of good matches will take place from the beginning of December to the end of March. This is a better arrangement than to crowd a number of fixtures into two or three months. Eight teams are expected to compete for the Six-a-side Cup and medals, and an examination of the play of participants should enable the Association captain, Mr. Bonnar, to select a strong team for the Shield competition.

It will be matter of general regret that Mr. A. R. Lowe is not likely to be able to take a very active part in this year's Association matches, as his captaincy and individual play last season were alike brilliant. Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, the new captain, will however have the confidence of his team and the best of results may be anticipated. The absence of Russell, Jenkins, Pfordten, Graham, and Lowe means a serious loss to the ranks of the 'X', but as Mr. F. Browne, the Hon. Secretary, confidently asserts that he knows where to find new talent, we must wait and hope. Meanwhile Bonnar, Kew, Macdonald, Lee, Clarke, and the Taikoo contingent, Howard and Danby, will ably represent the Club as before. Worcester ought to have a chance if he will get himself into condition and Le Marchande, the new outside right, has a reputation to keep up. No doubt the six-a-side games, which are likely to be more popular than ever this year, will add to the Captain's list, and there is plenty of new blood fit to compose a second team on last year's lines.

The Rugby football players, though they have a captain who is a very good player and is sure to be energetic, do not commence the season with very brilliant prospects. In the absence of three such excellent performers as McMurtrie, the late captain, Johnston, and Sandford the team will naturally be much weakened. If Burke also is lost to the Club (of which I am not sure) the blow will be a hard one. Beattie, Danby, Goldring, Hallifax, Jordan, and Wolfe will still be available of the more prominent players last year, but certainly some good recruits will be needed if the Club is to escape being defeated on every occasion by the Navy, its chief opponents. Perhaps if, as was suggested at the Football Club's meeting, the Rugby players were to have alternate Saturdays with the Association men on the Club ground the play would improve; at least Rugby might be a little more generously treated. It is chiefly outside the pack that the Club requires aid. There is no other half-back up to Jordan's form, and where are the three-quarters? Perhaps the Army will bring the Club some new players of merit.

At the annual general meeting of the Hongkong Football Club on the 25th ult., it was decided to put up the grand stand once more. This stand has been blown down four times in five years, but as it greatly contributes to the comfort of those non-playing members and those of the public who prefer to view the matches from the enclosure, it cannot be considered an unreasonable expense.

The Gymkhana programme for the 11th inst. promises well, and if only we escape "gymkhana weather" should be very attractive. These meetings, being the only opportunity for owners to race their ponies apart from the annual Race Meeting, deserve more patronage than they have had of late.

(Daily Press, 6th October.)

The publication of the list of the eight six-side teams to compete for the Challenge Cup promises some good games for the month of October. The results so far have been that Clarke's team drew with Worcester's on Thursday (1-0), and yesterday Kew's team beat Anderson's by 1-0. It is difficult to select the probable winners, as experience shows the sides vary a good deal, and in a side of six only, the absence of one good man makes an enormous difference.

The final tie for the Royal Artillery Polo Trophy was played off yesterday afternoon on the Polo Ground at Causeway Bay, the competitors being the R. A. v. Civilians. In the preliminary game on Wednesday, the R. A. defeated the 14th Bombay Infantry by 2 goals to 1 subsidiary. Friday's match was very fast and was all in favour of the Civilians, who kept up their past reputation by again winning the Trophy by the handsome advantage of 4 goals and 1 subsidiary to *nil*. The teams were as follows:—Civilians: Hon. F. H. May, Messrs. J. Hastings, W. A. Cruickshank, and E. C. Pontifex. R. A.: Captain Morris, Captain Stevenson, Captain Boyd, and Lieut. Badham Thornhill. At the conclusion of the game the ceremony of presenting the Trophy to the winners was gracefully performed by Mrs. Johnson, wife of Colonel R. P. Johnson, Commanding the Royal Artillery. Hon. F. H. May accepted the Trophy on behalf of his team, and Mrs. Johnson was thanked in time-honoured fashion for her services. There was a large attendance of spectators, including many ladies. The band and pipers of the 33rd Burma Infantry played a fine programme of music during the meeting. To Captain H. O. S. Cadogan, R.W.F., the Hon. Secretary of the Polo Club, thanks are due for the excellence of the arrangements in connection with the matches.

The hockey season of 1902-3 should be the best on record since the game was played in Hongkong. The institution of a challenge shield would be very popular and indeed should attract almost as many entries as the Association Football Shield. If funds do not run to a shield being purchased a competition may still be got up, with badges for the winning team. There ought to be a number of good teams among the Fleet, better indeed than the ships' football teams, some of whom are rather crude in their notion of the game.

As far as one can see, the new griffins are a better average lot than those of last year and show more quality. There are not so many that at a glance one would condemn as being being totally unfit for racing purposes, or in fact for any purpose at all. I can never fancy skewbalds, piebalds, and creams as being desirable colours for race-horses, and I am glad that they are conspicuously absent in this season's consignment. Whether we have got the value in horseflesh which can reasonably be expected for the price paid is a difficult problem to solve. Possibly the general opinion inclines to the idea that we have not got all that might be expected. Whatever class of animal we get, however, some will be better than others, and on the whole I do not think we have been badly served. Everyone can't win the Derby, and everyone who subscribes for a griffin knows beforehand that he is going in for a lottery, and I think he should be content if he gets a pony which is worth, for some purpose or other, approximately what he paid for it. If he gets

one which is worth more than what it cost then such a person should consider himself in luck, way, especially if he only subscribes for one animal; for it is apparent that a person who subscribes for more than one pony must according to the ordinary law of chance have more probability of drawing a flyer than the one who subscribes for a single pony.

There are quite a number of people at the race-courses every morning now, and a few owners are taking time by the forelock. Undoubtedly the ponies which are under the care of Mr. Gegg, as manager of Kennedy's livery-stables, are being cared for, and the interests of owners looked after, in a manner that has never been done before by that establishment. Owners of all classes of horses will appreciate the very desirable change that has taken place in this direction.

At the Hongkong Rowing Club the fall in temperature has produced a certain amount of renewed life, and an occasional four may be seen splashing its laborious way towards Yaumati, giving promise of better things and more animation among the members of the Club. The first of the usual scratch races will probably be held in November, and it is rumoured that a match has been arranged between crews representing two of the regiments stationed in Kowloon. The boxing and gymnastic classes will also be resumed in November. Socially the season will commence with a smoking concert which is to be held at the S. Andrew's Hall next Saturday, which should prove a distinct success.

The postponed Championship of the Hongkong Gun Club comes off to-day, and on Tuesday, and Wednesday the Ladies' Nomination Competition being decided on the last day.

I hear that the Hongkong team for the annual Interport Match is not likely to be so strong as of late years, unless indeed some of the new blood proves above the average. Last year, it will be remembered, the Hongkong score was remarkably fine, considering that the new Bisle targets were used for the first time. Hongkong has won the last four contests and will no doubt fight hard for a fifth successive victory.

OMPAX.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The eight teams that will compete for the Six-a-side Challenge Cup are as follows:—

L. J. C. Anderson (capt.)	C. T. Kew (capt.)
W. R. Lemarchand	H. A. Seth
C. Shaw	J. Craik
W. R. Robertson	H. S. Bevan
H. Bell	J. P. Jordan
A. C. Franklin	F. D. Bain
E. D. C. Wolfe (capt.)	N. H. Rutheford (capt.)
C. R. S. Cooper	G. B. Macdonald, R.A.
A. Humphreys	H. S. Holmes
O. T. Barnes	A. Boyd
G. H. Gaskell, R.E.	C. L. Bland, R.A.
J. Bosustow	Capt. Boyd, R.A.
W. W. Clarke (capt.)	W. G. Worcester (capt.)
L. C. Rees	E. R. Codling
E. J. Libeaud	E. W. Carpenter
T. E. Pearce	Ian Graham
C. C. Hickling	T. C. Gray
D. Abbey	E. M. Knox
J. V. Bennett (capt.)	J. W. C. Bonnar (capt.)
W. T. Gaulfeild, R.E.	R. Henderson
P. H. Campbell, R.E.	E. Burns-Pye
S. Cooke, R.N.	C. E. Danby
E. J. Davies	H. F. Chard
J. H. R. Hance	H. Arthur

The following will act as substitutes — Messrs. J. Hays, J. H. Seth, C. P. Chater, H. W. Sayer, and the last two mentioned players in the above eight teams. Also any new members joining after this date may act as substitutes.

Kick-off:—Not later than ten minutes past five.

Off-side:—Two players.

The matches are as follows:—

October

2. Worcester v. Clarke
3. Kew v. Bennett
6. Rutherford v. Bonnar
7. Anderson v. Kew
- Wolfe v. Clarke
8. Bennett v. Worcester

- Oct. 9. Anderson v. Rutherford
- Wolfe v. Bonnar
13. Bonnar v. Bennett
- Clarke v. Rutherford
14. Worcester v. Wolfe
15. Anderson v. Clarke
- Kew v. Rutherford
16. Bonnar v. Worcester
- Bennett v. Anderson
17. Kew v. Wolfe
21. Anderson v. Worcester
- Kew v. Clarke
21. Wolfe v. Bennett
22. Rutherford v. Worcester
- Kew v. Bonnar
23. Clarke v. Bennett
- Anderson v. Wolfe
27. Bonnar v. Clarke
- Rutherford v. Bennett
23. Worcester v. Kew
29. Wolfe v. Rutherford
30. Anderson v. Bonnar

The Club colours are white crepe shirt, dark blue knickers, and stockings.

HONGKONG HOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Hockey Club was held on the 30th ult. in the Cricket Pavilion. Mr. J. Butten presided, and there were also present Lieut. Thornhill, Mr. T. C. Gray, Lieut. Macdonald, Mr. Carter, R.N., Mr. C. P. Chater, Mr. P. Dow, and Mr. J. Hooper, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The Hon. SECRETARY read the minutes of last meeting, and they were approved.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the accounts, which showed a balance at credit of the Club of over \$70.

Mr. GRAY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. Dow moved the re-election of the office-bearers.

Lieut. MACDONALD seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. GRAY remarked that it had been suggested by a few gentlemen that there should be some sort of Shield competition in connection with the Club on the same lines as that promoted by the Football Club. There were several regiments on this and the Kowloon side who had teams and there would be plenty of ships here before long. A Shield competition would stimulate interest in the game and if they could get subscriptions he did not see why it should not be set on foot. He would leave the matter to the discretion of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the better course would be for somebody to propose that the Committee make arrangements for some such competition, if it were feasible.

Mr. CHATER moved accordingly.

Mr. Dow seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Lieut. THORNHILL reminded the meeting that the Committee would require to meet at an early date for the consideration of the matter; the ships would be down in less than a month and hockey would be going strong.

The CHAIRMAN said he had no doubt that the Hon. Secretary would call a meeting on an early date.

In reply to Lieut. THORNHILL,

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Club had got the ground on the same terms as last year, and in the interval the Government had put up posts defining exactly the edges of the ground. They had got it on the same conditions with regard to days, and everything else.

A vote of thanks was awarded the Chairman on the motion of Mr. CHATER; and this closed the meeting.

Mr. W. Egerton, First Magistrate at Singapore (who was mentioned as a likely successor to Mr. Stewart-Lockhart as Colonial Secretary at Hongkong) has been appointed to be Resident of Negri Sembilan. Mr. Egerton will continue for the present to act as Colonial Treasurer, and Collector of Stamp Duties, Straits Settlements. Mr. J. O. Anthonisz has been appointed to be First Magistrate, Singapore, vice Mr. W. Egerton, but will continue for the present to act as President of the Municipal Commissioners, Singapore.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

At a committee meeting held on the 25th ult., it was decided to enter a team again this year for the Seventh Imperial Rifle Match—which is promoted by the Rupanyup Rifle Club of Victoria, Australia. The match will be shot off on a date to be fixed later on between this and the 31st October. It will be remembered that Hongkong took fifth place in this match last year—the first year of their entry. The Annual Interport Match will be held between the 1st and 15th November. The following members are requested to practice for the above events, and to send in all practice scores to the Honorary Secretary:—

Messrs. J. J. Andrews, Baldwin, Collins, Crocker, Cross, Davies, Garnett, Horley, Hobday, Hamilton, Jeffery, Lamport, Lapsley, J. Marshall, McDermott, C. Marshall, Penning, Pidgeon, Pullen, Parks, Pitt, Stackwood, Saunders, Varcoe, West and Wells.

HONGKONG.

Mr. C. Clementi has been appointed to act as Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of Councils, during the absence on vacation leave of Mr. R. F. Johnston.

Fire broke out on the 28th ult. in a large heap of coal near Sharp's Buildings at Kowloon, belonging to Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. The damage done was not serious.

We hear that the A.D.C.'s forthcoming performance of *Liberty Hall* promises very well indeed. The old members of the Club are few, but the recruits are exceptionally strong.

A small fire occurred on the 23d ult. at Kowloon, when some matchboxes with materials inside, belonging to a Chinese contractor who is erecting a curious-looking house on land near Mr. Hatherley's "Glenthorne," were destroyed.

Mr. J. W. Jones, who previous to his going home on leave recently held the post of Acting Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, has been appointed Deputy Registrar, the office formerly held by Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Police Magistrate.

The granting of free pratique at Saigon to arrivals from Hongkong is notified in the *Gazette*, as is also the announcement of the French Consul that quarantine restrictions in French Indo-China against arrivals hence have been withdrawn.

The police reported on the 27th ult. that thirteen matchboxes had been destroyed by fire at Kowloon City on the previous night, the damage amounting to about \$400. The outbreak originated in a gardener's matchbox. A matchbox valued at \$15 was destroyed by fire at Wongneicheong on the same day.

The *Gazette* notifies that an additional rate of 4 per cent. per annum, to take effect from the first inst., will be levied on the Tai Hang villagers in consequence of the destruction of trees in that place and its neighbourhood. There is already a fine of 4 per cent. on these mischievous villagers.

The comparative statement of Stamp revenue for the months of August, 1901 and 1902, shows a total decrease for the latter month of \$5,118.94. Probate or letters of administration declined \$2,976; Conveyance or assignment, \$2,118.50; and Transfer of shares, \$1,859.30. The largest increases were shown in Banknote duty, \$2,066.45; and Adhesive stamps, \$1,752.07.

About half-past twelve on the 29th ult. fire broke out in a shop at 116, Jervois Street, and burned steadily for some hours before the firemen got the upper hand. The shop in question is occupied by a paper-merchant, who also deals in crackers, candles, and other inflammable material of a like nature. The building is a four-story one, and every floor was stocked with merchandise of the character indicated, so that the task of subjugating the flames was rendered a most difficult one. Under Captain Lyons, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and Mr. A. Mackie, Chief Inspector, the Brigade worked with a will, and was entirely successful in confining the fire to its place of origin. Although every floor was badly damaged both by fire and water, none was quite destroyed, the damage being seen chiefly in the back part of the various floors. Neither the extent of the damage nor the cause of the outbreak is yet known, but the place is insured.

Mr. H. Noguchi has been appointed acting Consul for Japan in Hongkong.

At the Magistracy on the 30th ult. a Chinese washerman from America was fined for being in unlicensed possession of a revolver and 50 rounds of ammunition.

On the 26th ult. the dead body of an unknown Chinaman of about 40 years of age was found hanging by the neck in a house under course of erection in Des Vaux Road Central. The case was one of suicide.

The dredger *Canton River*, which was sunk in the 1901 typhoon and afterwards raised and put on the slip at Kowloon Docks, took the water again on Friday after being re-engined and having undergone a thorough overhaul. He is said to be as good as new, and will be ready to resume dredging in about a month, it is expected.

The death return for August shows a total of 765 deaths, 31 being in the European and Foreign community (24 civilians, 6 Army, 1 Navy), and the rest Chinese. 72 deaths were due to plague, 49 to malarial fever, and 139 to chest affections. The principal registration districts showed the following figures:—British and foreign civil community, 29.3 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese, Victoria, land 29, boat 23; Chinese, who e Colony, land 29, boat 35.3; land and boat 30; whole civil community 30. The high mortality in the Chinese boat population is accounted for by the Shaukiwan and Aberdeen percentages which were 83.8 and 69 per 1,000 per annum respectively.

On Friday night at 8 o'clock the opening ceremony took place of the new King Edward Hotel amid most favourable circumstances. We have already described the building so that it is not necessary again to go into details. On Friday a large company was invited to partake of the initiatory banquet, and the large dining-room on the ground-floor was filled by those who accepted the invitation. An excellent repast was prepared, which all the guests enjoyed, the band of 33rd Burma regiment being in attendance. After the dinner had been despatched, a number of toasts were suitably proposed, beginning with those of the King and Queen and ending with that of "Prosperity to the new King Edward Hotel," entrusted to Mr. Shelton Hooper and received with acclamation. The Hotel opened its career under most favourable auspices.

A Chinese lad of about 16 years committed suicide in First Lane, Yaumati, on Friday morning, by hanging himself. The case was a determined one, the deceased having climbed a little way up the wall, fastened a piece of cord to a large nail driven therein, and then swung clear. He was quite dead when discovered. Another case of suicide which occurred also at Yaumati a few days ago is noteworthy because of the method adopted by the deceased to prematurely "shuffle off this mortal coil." He had been disappointed in a love affair, so he tied his queue, a conveniently long one, tightly round his neck, and then, to assist the process of strangulation, inclined his head forward. The plaits of the queue prevented its yielding, and in the morning the other people on the sampan where the incident occurred found the boy dead.

Perhaps, writes a correspondent, the public would like to know of an incident I had occasion to witness as a passenger on the steamer *Namsang*, Capt. Payne. On the morning of the 22nd ult., at about 9.45, the chief engineer saw a Chinese deck passenger overboard on the port side and swimming away from the ship. He promptly informed the captain, who immediately slowed down, put the helm hard over and prepared to lower a boat. Meantime a life buoy had been thrown to the Chinaman, who was soon out of sight, but the steamer describing a loop, he came in view directly ahead. The boat in charge of the second officer was lowered and pulled up to the drowning man. The sailor in the bow reached out but missed him but the officer in the stern succeeded in pulling him into the boat. A few minutes later, the apparently lifeless body was aboard the steamer, but appearances proved correct, as all attempts at resuscitation failed, and the corpse was brought to port. The sea was calm but the fact that the body was secured in 11 minutes after being seen in the water shows that no time was lost in getting out a boat, though the ship was going at about 12 knots per hour.

A dozen or so new recruits are said to be coming out to the police.

A grass fire at Pokfulam on the 28th ult. destroyed a number of fine trees. It was extinguished subsequently by police and coolies from No. 7 Station.

The police reported on the 30th ult. that a grass fire broke out on Cheung Chau Island on the 28th ult., resulting in damage to the extent of \$1,300. A number of trees was destroyed.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum during the week ending 27th ult. were 225 non-Chinese and 80 Chinese to the former, and 62 non-Chinese and 1,792 Chinese to the latter institution.

Messrs. Morton & Gibson report that satisfactory progress is being made in the operations for the raising of the sunken *Pakshan*. The under-water work is pretty well forward, and soon the actual raising of the foundered steamer will be commenced.

Major P. L. C. Berger, Commanding the Hongkong Regiment, informs us that the farewell review of the Regiment by H.E. the Governor will take place at the Happy Valley at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, the 10th inst., instead of on Saturday, the 11th inst.

Mr. George Lelorrain, Vice-Consul for France at Manila has arrived from the Philippines in the French despatch-boat *Kersaint*. He is en route to Tonkin and takes with him 140 Filipinos, including 27 Negritos, who will represent the industries and arts of the Philippine Islands at the Hanoi Exposition. The company comprises artists, musicians, artisans, etc., and there are also on board the *Kersaint* American, Spanish, and Filipino newspaper representatives. Messrs. Castle Bros., of Manila, have arranged for a regular service of steamers between Manila and Haiphong, calling at Hongkong, during the Exposition.

The U. S. transport *McClellan*, which was recently dry-docked here, arrived in Manila on the 23rd ult. There was some trouble with the quarantine officers when the vessel arrived, the papers not being properly signed by the authorities at Hongkong when the vessel left this port. This was satisfactorily arranged, however. The *McClellan* was due to leave Manila on the 30th ult. for New York via Suez Canal. Among the passengers are General Chaffee and family.

There has just been introduced into the Post Office, under the direction of Mr. E. Cornwall Lewis, Acting Postmaster, a new style of box for the convenience of box-holders. These boxes are fitted with patent American keyless locks, of a description which has been largely adopted in the United States and elsewhere. The framework in which they are fitted is situated at the top of the steps of the delivery department door in Pedder Street. All that a box-holder (or his servant) now requires to do in order to secure his mail is to manipulate the dial on his box so as to make the particular combination which serves to open it. This mechanism is of the simplest nature and yet is capable of defying the attentions of any one but him who is the possessor of the combination. There are in all 270 small boxes and 50 large ones. Each of these has its own combination; if a holder should at any time wish to change his combination this can be easily effected, as the number of these is almost infinite. Already the new system has got a severe testing through the delivery of the recent American and German mails, and although there was in the first instance necessarily a certain amount of delay and worry consequent upon the novelty of the thing, it promises to be a great success and a convenience to box-holders. From the point of view of the hard-worked Post Office employees, it will lead to greater facility in delivery of mails and will lessen the chances of mis-sorting. It is rather a notable thing that some of the old firms of Hongkong look with disfavour (or something like that) upon the new departure, preferring to adhere to "old custom."

The U. S. transport *Iris* left on the 25th ult. for Manila, and on the 29th ult. the British storeship *Humber* and the transport *Pentakota* departed for Weihaiwei and Calcutta respectively.

The Austrian cruiser *Maria Theresa* arrived on the 28th ult. from Shanghai and the German gunboat *Tiger* from Amoy. The British transport *Pentakota* arrived on the 27th ult. from Taku.

MISCELLANEOUS.

H. B. M. Consul-General at Bangkok has telegraphed that Paknam is substituted for Kohphai as the place where vessels from Hongkong or Chinese ports must call for pratique.

The delay in the sailing of the *Korea* from San Francisco was due to the Labour Union of San Francisco filing a suit against her, because among her personnel were 200 Chinese. Judgment was given in her favour.

It is reported there has been a severe outbreak of cholera in the lower provinces along the Mekong river, attributed to the long drought and great heat. Many cattle are also said to have died in the same districts.

The *P. & T. Times* of the 20th ult. records that Major Beresford-Ash, R.W.F., passed through Tientsin on a visit to the Ming Tombs. The Major was acting as escort to his wife and Mr. Stewart Lockhart. This pilgrimage is becoming more and more popular.

H.M.S. *Albion* will leave Shanghai for the South in the early part of this month, on the spring tide. H.M.S. *Pique* will probably remain in Shanghai until December. H. M. cruiser *Eclipse* is at present on the Yangtze. The battleship *Glory* has left Weihaiwei for Japan.

Cholera has reached Tsintao and has been raging specially at Tapantau. In Tsintao itself only a few cases occurred and the deaths were three men and three children; but at Tapantau several hundreds have died. In the interior the epidemic is still worse. Nearly every village has been attacked and in some nearly a third of the population has perished.

The execution of the Chenchou rioters is thus related by the Changte correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*:—After a suitable cemetery had been provided and the bodies of Messrs. Bruce and Lewis had been buried, Mr. Giles and the two Taotais went into the examination of the prisoners who were participants in the riot. Eight were condemned to die and were beheaded on the river front. They knelt, with bodies erect, while the executioner with his heavy knife struck each across the back of the neck. The blow caused the bodies to fall forward but was not sufficient to sever the head from the trunk. A second man with a short knife completed the punishment by a semi-sawing process.

In the Singapore *Government Gazette* on the 19th ult. appeared a report by Mr. Pierce, in which he deals with the water famine. He writes:—Putting loss by evaporation at 750,000 gallons per day, and ordinary consumption at 2,500,000, the daily drain on the available storage is 3,250,000 gallons, and therefore 93,320,000 gallons represents under present conditions about a month's supply. Last year the water in the reservoir continued to fall till October, when its lowest point for that year was reached. Assuming that similar conditions obtain this year, it is quite obvious that every precaution must be taken to enable the water department to tide over the difficulty. In the face of these figures it ought not to be again necessary to enjoin the greatest economy on the public.

A special Army order issued last month by the War Office contains the programme of intended reliefs between the United Kingdom and the colonies, and between those places and India during the year 1902-1903 (subject to such modification as may from time to time be necessary). There are naturally no changes in the Cavalry and Royal Horse Artillery that affect the Far East, but in the Garrison Artillery No. 78 Company (late 17 Southern) proceeds from Triumali to Hongkong, and No. 64 (late 18 Eastern) Colombo to Hongkong; No. 62 (late 2 Southern) and No. 64 (late 19 Western) from Hongkong to Singapore; and Nos. 49 (late 23 Southern) and 50 (late 38 Southern) from Singapore to Gibraltar. These are all put down to change as commencing in October. In the Infantry battalions the 1st Batt. of the Derbyshire Regiment is to proceed from South Africa to Hongkong, the 2nd Batt. Royal Welsh Fusiliers going from Hongkong to India. Singapore is again to have a white regiment, and the 1st Batt. of the Manchester Regiment will go from South Africa. Ceylon loses two white regiments and only gets one in return. These changes are announced to take place between October and March.

The announcement that a Japanese had been appointed legal adviser to Siam has caused a great flutter in Paris, where for some time past there has been considerable apprehension regarding the effect the Anglo-Japanese alliance might exercise on Japan.

On or about the 1st October the *Peking and Tientsin Times* was to have been published as a daily as well as a weekly paper. The weekly edition will be crown size, of eight or more pages, with three columns of printed matter on each page.

The Hankow correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes:—Dr. Martin is here looking well and hearty. There has been a very successful distribution of books at the Triennial Examination in Hunan. The missionaries were allowed to distribute the books within the barriers of the Examination Hall. I hear the British Government are negotiating for Mr. Melotkoff's house. The Kuling extension terms and extent of the estate have been agreed upon. There are only the terms and method of payment now in dispute.

A *Shanghai Times* despatch, dated London, the 25th September, says: In connection with plans for active competition in Atlantic steamship service, announcement is made by the Cunard Company that it has decided to carry out the plan projected some time ago for a service greatly improved in respect to speed. Definite word has been received from Liverpool that the company will place on its line as soon as they can be built two new ships, each with an assured speed capacity of 25 knots, for the purpose, it is openly declared, of regaining the Atlantic record for quick passage to New York.

A correspondent's letter to the *Shanghai Times*, written at Peking on the 19th ult., says:—The Portuguese Minister is said to have assumed a firm attitude in his demand for the extension of the foreign settlement at Macao and the right to construct the Canton-Macao Railway. He has threatened the Wai Wu-pu that unless the Chinese accede to his request, his government will oppose an advance in the tariff list to an effective 15 per cent. Since nothing can be settled until the Powers act together, Prince Ching has promised to send his *weiguin* to Macao to look into the matter and report upon it.

A sum of \$1,254.14 has been raised by subscription in Kiaochau for the benefit of the sufferers from the recent floods in the hinterland. The Governor of Shantung who was informed by the German authorities of this result of the appeal on behalf of the necessitous to the German residents, telegraphed his thanks to the subscribers, but intimated that in view of the handsome provision already made by the Provincial Treasury he would only require \$882 of the sum collected by the Germans. This money has been forwarded to him and the subscribers have decided to devote the balance to the Faber Hospital.

The Navy Department will soon call for bids for a huge floating dock to accommodate a 16,000-ton battle ship, to be built in the United States and floated over to the Philippines, says the *Washington Star*. This will be one of the largest floating dry docks ever constructed. The amount available is \$1,250,000, and Admiral Endicott of the bureau of yards and docks has about completed the specifications under which the huge structure will be built. Whether it will be towed across the Pacific or across the Atlantic through the Suez Canal will depend upon the place of its construction, but in any event the towing of this gigantic steel structure such a distance will be a formidable undertaking.

On the 20th ult. the foreign Ministers to Seoul held a meeting at the Japanese Legation to consider what measures can be adopted to combat the outbreak of cholera. It was resolved to urge the Korean Government to adopt strict measures, and to recommend the Government to place the work under the superintendence of Mr. Sands, American Adviser, and other foreign doctors. The disease is very prevalent in Seoul and several well-known men have fallen victims to it. Kin To-ki, Russian interpreter, was one of the victims and it was his death that caused the authorities to decide to postpone the celebration of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty's accession until next spring. The Korean Sanitary Department has decided to engage foreign medical men to advance the cause of public sanitation.

A number of Japanese engineers have been engaged for the Canton-Hankow railway works, and are now on their way South.

The Rajah of Telobin who was recently taken to Singora by the Siamese authorities has been permitted to return to his State; but the Rajah of Ligah who was taken at the same time is still held captive at Singora, says the *Straits Times*.

A petition for the reprieve of Gonin (who was executed last week for the murder of a ricksha-coolie) was sent to the Straits Government, but it was not acceded to. The *Singapore Free Press* understands that Gonin confessed his guilt, alleging that he committed the crime in consequence of fear of retaliation on the part of the ricksha-puller when he refused to give him the money he demanded. Gonin was also said to have stated that he did not think that the injuries he had inflicted on the Chinaman were fatal, and therefore he did not endeavour to make good his escape at the time.

On the 20th ult. the U.S. transport *Sheridan* brought back to Manila the Filipino exiles from Guam. Among the thirty-nine released political prisoners Senior Apollinario Mabini was missing. The veteran insurrecto wants to take the oath of allegiance in Manila and refuses to take it at Guam. Mabini, it is also said, is paralysed in his right side, and, feeling keenly about returning to Manila in a crippled condition, prefers to spend his remaining days in obscurity rather than return to the scenes where he was a leader in the events following the 1st May, 1898.

On the 30th August a Japanese named Usui was seriously assaulted by a number of his countrymen at Port Arthur, and died after his removal to the Russian hospital. Allegations of neglect were made against the Japanese Consul at Newchwang, it being complained that the Consul was very slow in taking action in the matter. The *Osaka Asahi's* telegram says:—Port Arthur is in the occupation of Russia, but it belongs to the Chinese dominions and the Japanese Consul by virtue of extra-territoriality has jurisdiction over the case. The Russian authorities, however, did not allow the Consul to exercise his jurisdiction, and in this way, it is claimed, infringed on the right of Japan. The Foreign Office at Tokyo has instituted investigations into the matter.

L'Avenir du Tonkin, in the course of an article on the progress of events in Siam, says:—"The orientalism of Siam continues. It is now no longer a secret from anyone that negotiations are in being between Siam and Japan, and that the alliance is on the point of being officially proclaimed to the civilised world. The true Siamese patriots see in this 'offensive and defensive' alliance something of an absurdity, in that it forces them to introduce into their army and navy Japanese officers, and to go to Japan to get warships built. There is in fact a fear that the introduction of the Japanese into Siam takes something of the form of an invasion, and that the construction of ironclads may be a less useful work for Siam than works of a less expensive character. We shall have more to say about that another time." It is interesting in this connection, says a Singapore paper, to remember that there have been Japanese in the service of Siam for many centuries and that in olden days they were generally the troops of which the King's bodyguard was formed.

A despatch to the *Kobe Chronicle* says that Mr. le Prevost, against whom a charge of misappropriating 30,000 yen has been laid by Mr. Weale, of Messrs. Cornes & Co., has instructed counsel to bring a civil suit for libel against Mr. Weale, damages being claimed amounting to 250,000 yen. The Japanese paper *Yorodzu* gives some further particulars of the charges against Mr. le Prevost in Yokohama, recently reported by telegram. It states that Mr. A. G. Morey Weale the representative of Messrs. Cornes & Co. in Yokohama, has preferred charge of theft, fraud, misappropriation of goods, and forgery of documents, in the Yokohama Chibo Saibansho, against Mr. A. le Prevost, the former manager of the firm, and four Japanese *banto* in the silk goods department of the firm. The method of the alleged frauds is stated to have been that Mr. le Prevost, aided by his Japanese accomplices, carried away silk goods purchased by the firm for export, these thefts commencing towards the end of last year. The value of the goods so stolen amounts to over 300,000 yen. The charge of Mr. Weale was accepted by the Court.

The Norwegian steamer *Oso* recently wrecked on the Loochoo, was sold by auction at Kobe for 8,500 yen.

The Russo-Japanese Society, organised at Tokyo by Viscount Enomoto, Baron Kaieko, and other well-known Japanese, was to celebrate its foundation on the 17th ult.

A million (gold) dollars' worth of opium was landed at San Francisco by the Japanese steamship *Hongkong Maru*, on her last trip from the Orient, the consignment being in 800 boxes from Macao.

The British North Borneo Coronation Contingent arrived at Singapore from home by the *N. D. L. Hamburg* on the morning of the 27th ult. The men, who were under the charge of Lieut. Wardrop, were in excellent condition and seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed their trip to England. Their stay in Singapore was of short duration only, as they went on to Sandakan by the s.s. *Tringganu* the same afternoon.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 3rd October.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 3rd October.—There is no change in the prices since last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.05 to \$8.10	per cwt.
do. " 2, White.....	6.70 to 6.75	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	6.00 to 6.05	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.80 to 5.85	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	7.95 to 8.00	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.60 to 6.65	"
do. " 1, Brown	5.75 to 5.80	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.65	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.00 to 12.05	"
Shekloong "	9.50 to 9.55	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 3rd October.—The position of the market is the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.35 to 3.40	"
" Round, Good quality	4.25 to 4.30	"
" Long	4.35 to 4.40	"
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.60 to 3.65	"
" Garden, " No. 1	3.80 to 3.85	"
" White	4.40 to 4.45	"
" Fine Cargo	4.65 to 4.70	"

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 3rd October.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$83.00 to \$124.00	per bale
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00	"
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00	"
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00	"
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00	"
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece.	
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30	"
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50	"
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.77	"
9 to 10 lbs.	3.85 to 5.00	"
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.60 to 2.90	"
58 to 60 "	3.25 to 3.45	"
64 to 66 "	3.53 to 5.35	"
Fine	5.40 to 7.85	"
Book-folds	4.55 to 7.00	"
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40	"
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.90 to 2.15	"
7lbs. (32 ")	2.20 to 2.50	"
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.40	"
7lbs. (32 ")	3.95 to 3.50	"
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.20 to 3.75	"
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/4 " ..	4.20 to 6.90	"
to 14 lbs.		"

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5 lbs.	1.60 to 4.50	"
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Brocades—Dyed	— to —	"
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DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.25	per yard
Velvets—Black, 22 in. A.....	0.23 to 0.60	"
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28	"

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 3.50	per dozen
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WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.65 to 2.25	per yard
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00	"

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.85 to 8.25	per piece
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Assorted	7.00 to 9.40	"
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Camlets—Assorted	15.50 to 34.00	"
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Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	12.50 to 17.00	"
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Assorted		"
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Orleans—Plain	10.00 to —	"
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Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 0.80	per pair
Fine quality,	1.40 to 2.00	"

MTEALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.00 to —	per picul
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.50 to —	"
Swedish Bar	4.60 to —	"
Small Round Rod	5.00 to —	"
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.20 to —	"
Wire, 16 25,	9.10 to —	"
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —	"
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	7.80 to —	"
Australian	7.80 to —	"
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —	"
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —	"
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —	"
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —	"
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	39.00 to —	"
Tin.....	79.40 to —	"

Tin-Plates	8.50 to —	box. per
Steel 1/2 to 1/4	6.50 to —	per cwt. case

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	180.00 to —	per picul
Window Glass	5.75 to —	per box.
Kerosene Oil.....	2.38 to —	per 10-gal. case

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 4th October.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	1/8 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.12 1/2
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.16 1/2
ON GERMANY.—On demand.....	1.73
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	41 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	42
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	126 1/2
Bank, on demand	127
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer ..	126 1/2
Bank, on demand	127
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	73 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight.....	74 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	22 p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate ..	\$11.78
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$61.89
BAR SILVER per oz.....	23 1/2

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.— <i>Kamakura Maru</i> (str.).	
FOR LONDON.— <i>Valetta</i> (str.), <i>Glengarry</i> (str.), <i>Glenshiel</i> (str.), <i>Kamakura Maru</i> (str.), <i>Nestor</i> (str.), <i>Achilles</i> (str.), <i>Menelaus</i> (str.), <i>Agamemnon</i> (str.), <i>Benlarig</i> (str.).	
FOR LIVERPOOL.— <i>Machaon</i> (str.), <i>Deucalion</i> (str.).	
FOR MARSEILLES.— <i>Oceanien</i> (str.), <i>Kamakura Maru</i> (str.).	
FOR GENOA.— <i>Benlarig</i> (tr.).	
FOR BREMEN.— <i>Preussen</i> (str.), <i>Freiburg</i> (str.).	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.— <i>Saxonia</i> (str.), <i>Freiburg</i> (str.), <i>Silvia</i> (str.), <i>Serbia</i> (str.), <i>Marburg</i> (str.), <i>Suevia</i> (str.), <i>Alesia</i> (str.).	
FOR TRIESTE.— <i>Trieste</i> (str.).	
FOR ODESSA.— <i>Knias Gortschakow</i> (str.).	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.— <i>Victoria</i> (str.), <i>Yangtze</i> (str.), <i>Shinano Maru</i> (str.), <i>Tosa Maru</i> (str.).	

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.), *Athenian* (str.).
 FOR NEW YORK.—*Hillglen* (str.), *Glenesk* (str.).
 FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—*Indravelli* (str.).
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Taiyuan* (str.).
 FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Namsang* (str.).
 FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—*Hiroshima Maru* (str.).
 FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—*Idzumi Maru* (str.).

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 3rd October.—Attention during the past week has been chiefly occupied with the September settlement, which, though heavy and severe in Indo-Chinas, has been carried through with comparative satisfaction. At the close there is a fair enquiry for most of our principal stocks at hardening rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled firm throughout the interval and are wanted at \$600. The London rate is £63 as last quoted.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have sold at \$485 and are in further request. China Traders have been booked at \$59. North-Chinas are procurable at Tls. 187 1/2, and Yangtszes at \$127 1/2. Cantons are quoted \$185 but with probable sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have rapidly advanced from \$345 to \$360 with small sales at intermediate rates, and close steady. Chinas are wanted at the improved rate of \$86.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are firm at \$36 1/2 with probable buyers. Indo-Chinas, under the pressing requirements of "shorts" for the settlement have been booked at \$82 and \$84, but since receded to a normal basis, closing steady at \$80. Shares for December delivery have been booked at \$82 1/2. China-Manilas after sales at \$21 1/2 cash and \$21 1/2 for October delivery, are in some request at \$22 1/2. Douglasses are wanted at \$38 1/2 ex the dividend of \$3 per share for 1901 paid on the 19th ultimo. Star Ferries are wanted at \$20 and \$10 1/2 for the old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports are unchanged at £1. 17s. 6d. sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are quiet with some sellers at \$99. Luzons can be placed at \$10.

MINING.—Punjoms are wanted at \$4 1/2. Jebebus can be placed at \$1 1/2. Raubs are unaltered at \$5 1/2 buyers.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue firm at \$2 1/2 with buyers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are in strong request at \$86. New Amoy Docks are still in demand at \$37.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue neglected at \$17 1/2 sellers. Kowloon Lands and West Points are unchanged at \$30 and \$47 1/2 sellers respectively. Humphreys Estates have improved to \$11 1/2 buyers. Hongkong Hotels, after sales at \$126 to \$127, are in demand at the higher rate. Oriente Hotels have declined to \$42 1/2 sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are quoted rather lower at Tls. 39 sellers. Internationals are quiet at Tls. 30, Laou-Kung-Mows at Tls. 37 1/2, and Soy Chees at Tls. 150. Hongkong Cottons have sold and can be procured at \$17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have sold at hardening rates and close firm at \$19 1/2. China-Borneos have improved to \$22 buyers. A. S. Watsons can be procured at \$1 1/2. China Providents are wanted at \$9 1/2. Wm. Powells are unaltered at \$9 sellers.

MEMOS.—Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 9th instant. Wm. Powell, Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 13th instant. Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 23rd instant; transfer books close from the 9th to 23rd October inclusive. China-Borneo Co., Ltd., extraordinary general meeting on the 11th instant to consider a proposal for the amalgamation of the Company with the Borneo Hardwood Company, Ltd., of London.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	(\$600, buyers { L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$35, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$15	\$22, buyers
China Light & Power } Co., Ld.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9½, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$99, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco } Invest. Co., Ld. }	\$50	\$45, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 39, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 30.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 37½.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, sales & sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$19½.
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$10	\$13, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$5	\$61, sellers
Hk. Steam Water } boat Co., Ld.	\$100	\$345, buyers
Hk. Steam Water }	\$5	\$9½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$127, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$86, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$130, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$205, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$185.
China Fire	\$20	\$86, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$59, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$360.
North China	£25	Tls. 187½, sellers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$485, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$127½, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$171, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$11½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ld.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$550.
Jebeu	\$5	\$1½.
Punjom	\$10	\$4½, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1, sales
Raubs	18	\$5½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$42½, sellers
Powell, Ld.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ld.	\$50	\$52½.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	{ \$22½, sales & nominal
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38½, ex div., buys.
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$36½.
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$80.
Shell Transport and } Trading Co.	£1	£1. 17s. 6d., sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$20, buyers { \$10½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	nominal.
United Abestos	\$4	\$8½.
Do	\$10	\$155, buyers
Universal Trading } Co., Ld.	\$5	\$19½, sellers
Watkins Ld.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$14½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

Shanghai, 1st October (from Messrs. J. P. Bisse & Co.'s Report). A fair amount of business was done in Indo-Chinas and Dock shares, chiefly to cover short sales for the September settlement, and to realise on purchases for that date. Langkat shares also had some attention. **BANKS**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—There is no local business reported. **SHIPPING**—Indo-China S. N. shares have changed hands at Tls. 58/59 cash and the September settlement, at 58/59.50 for December, 59/61 for January and 60 for February. **SUGARS**—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares changed hands at \$77. **MINING**—Punjoms

were sold at \$4.50, and Chinese Engineering and Mining shares at Tls. 9.20/9. **DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. A large business was done at Tls. 195 187.50 cash and for the settlement, at 187.50 for October, 197.50/199 and 192 50 for December, 197.50 for January and 200 for February. There are cash buyers at 187.50 at the close. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 310 cash and 326.5½ for March, and Yangtze Wharf and Godown shares at Tls. 230. **LANDS**—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 116 116 50 cum new issue. **INDUSTRIAL**—International Cotton Mill shares were placed at Tls. 31 30. China Flour Mill shares were sold at Tls. 45 ex div. and Shanghai Pulp shares at Tls. 103. Shares in Moutrie and Co. changed hands at \$58. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS**—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 140. **MISCELLANEOUS**—Shanghai Waterworks shares were sold at Tls. 365. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 42.5½. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Co. Business was done at Tls. 235 245 for cash and the settlement, at 244 247.50 for October, 251 for January and 260 for March. Shanghai Mutual Telephone shares changed hands at Tls. 6½. Astor House Hotel shares and old shares were sold at \$115, equal to \$28.75 for the subdivided share. **LOANS**—Shanghai Land Investment 5 per cent. Debentures were sold Tls. 93.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—
ARRIVALS.
26, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
26, Pronto, German str., from Cebu.
27, Afton, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Ailsa Craig, British str., from K'chinotzu.
27, Chas. Tiberghien, Fr. str., from Manila.
27, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
27, Pentakota, British trspt., from Taku.
27, Robt. Dickinson, Brit. str., from Hankow.
27, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
27, Taiyuan, British str., from Sydney.
28, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
28, Deramore, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
28, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
28, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
28, James Brand, Brit. str., from Pulo Sambo.
28, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
28, Maria Theresa, Aust. str., from Shanghai.
28, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.
28, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
28, Tiger, German gunboat, from Amoy.
29, Chinkiang, British str., from Wuhu.
29, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
29, Diomed, British str., from Yokohama.
29, Elita Nossack, German str., from Java.
29, Glenartney, British str., from London.
29, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
29, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Orono, British str., from Antwerp.
29, Phra C. Kiao, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Rein, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
29, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Yueusang, British str., from Manila.
30, Canton, British str., from Canton.
30, Doris, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
30, Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
30, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
30, Paknam, German str., from Bangkok.
30, Peluse, British str., from Pakhoi.
30, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
30, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
30, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
30, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

October—

1, Benarty, British str., from Singapore.
1, Borg, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
1, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
1, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
1, Hyson, British str., from Singapore.
1, Kong Beng, German str., from Bangkok.
1, Kumato Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
1, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
1, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
1, Quangnam, French str., from Hilo.
1, Saxonia, German str., from Hamburg.
1, Theodor Wille, Ger. str., from Samarang.
2, Amara, British str., from Hongay.
2, Awa Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
2, Border Knight, British str., from Manila.
2, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
2, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.
2, Hunan, British str., from Wuhu.

2, Java, British str., from London.
2, M. Rickmers, German str., from Saigon.
2, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., from Manila.
2, Sisban, British str., from Saigon.
2, Taifu, German str., from Manila.
2, Thales, British str., from Manila.
2, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
2, Wangeroo, Ger. str., from Bremerhaven.
3, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
3, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
3, Hamburg, German str., from Hamburg.
3, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
3, Kersaint, French gunboat, from Manila.
3, Korea, American str., from S. Francisco.
3, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
3, Miike Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
3, Saga, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
3, Zvir, Austrian str., from Bangkok.
4, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
4, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
4, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
4, Foochow, British str., from Wuhu.
4, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Chefoo.
4, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
4, Phraung, German str., from Bangkok.
4, Shantung, German str., from Manila.
4, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
4, Toonan, Chinese str., from Canton.
4, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
4, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
4, Zaire, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
5, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.

September— DEPARTURES.

27, Ballarat, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Bengal, British str., for Europe.
27, Benvenue, British str., for Rangoon.
27, Chettenham, British str., for Yokohama.
27, Chowfa, German str., for Swatow.
27, Fausang, British str., for Chefoo.
27, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
27, Iris, American transport, for Manila.
27, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
27, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
27, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
27, P. C. C. Kiao, German str., for Bangkok.
27, Taicheong, German str., for Saigon.
27, Tsurugisan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
27, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
27, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
27, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
28, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.
28, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
28, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
28, Karin, Swedish str., for Saigon.
28, La Porte, British str., for Moji.
28, Nanchang, British str., for Amoy.
28, Pioneer, German str., for Nagasaki.
29, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
29, Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
29, Deramore, Norwegian str., for Yokohama.
29, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
29, Humber, British storeship, for W'haiwei.
29, Orono, British str., for Taku.
29, Pentakota, British trspt., for Calcutta.
30, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
30, Chas. Tiberghien, Fr. str., for Shanghai.
30, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
30, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
30, Contest, British barque, for Foochow.
30, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
30, Hupeh, British str., for Swatow.
30, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
30, Robt. Dickinson, Brit. str., for Singapore.
30, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
30, Yueusang, British str., for Manila.

October—

1, Afton, British str., for New York.
1, Ailsa Craig, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
1, Canton, British str., for Ningpo.
1, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
1, Diomed, British str., for London.
1, Glenartney, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
1, James Brand, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Karin, Swedish str., for Tamsui.
1, Keelung Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
1, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
1, Pronto, German str., for Chefoo.
1, Taichow, German str., for Bangkok.
1, Theodor Wille, German str., for Kobe.
2, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
2, Hyson, British str., for Seattle.
2, Hudson, British str., for Java.
2, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
2, M. Rickmers, German str., for Yokohama.
2, P. R. Luitpold, German str., for Europe.

- 2, Saxonia, German str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 3, Benarty, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 3, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
- 3, Eastern, British str., for Australia.
- 3, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Jaya, British str., for Foochow.
- 3, Kansu, British str., for Ningpo.
- 3, Kwangleo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Maria Theresa, Aust. cr., for Singapore.
- 3, Peluse, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Taiyuan, British str., for Kobe.
- 3, Taksang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Wangeroog, German str., for Kiaochau.
- 4, Awa Maru, Japanese str., for London.
- 4, Doris, German str., for Wuhu.
- 4, Hamburg, German str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Hongbae, British str., for Amoy.
- 4, Kersaint, French gunboat for Tonkin.
- 4, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
- 4, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Rein, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 5, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 5, Paknam, German str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Phra C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Woosung*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Silberdine, Messrs. Lodge and Vincent.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Miss Straugways, Messrs. Ross and Kitahaser and Master Bongeant.

Per *B. ngal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. J. M. Stevens, Mrs. Stanbury and infant, Mrs. W. J. Southam, Mr. and Mrs. Naylor and infant, Miss F. Banvard, Messrs. A. Debrunner, E. Plage, J. Spetchgryp, A. Bastien and L. R. Rachwaldy; for London, Mr. M. J. Tyack.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Hongkong, from London, Miss Barker, Midshipmen G. C. Boyle and A. Punnett, Messrs. R. L. Henderson and P. H. Holyoak; from Marseilles, Messrs. C. Lawson and Acheson; from Gibraltar, Col F. A. C. Sant-Anna; from Brindisi, via Bombay and Calcutta, Mr. W. L. Keane; from Bombay, Col. and Mrs. C. R. Hervey; from Colombo, General and Mrs. McCall; from Calcutta, via Colombo, Misses K. and G. Stevenson; from Singapore, Messrs. W. G. Kelly and R. C. Hesse; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. Hillman and child, Miss Pearson, Messrs. Owen, E. Kerner, F. C. McCullum and D. M. Hay; from Marseilles, Messrs. J. Harfield, G. R. Anderson, J. D. Innocent and J. W. Gande; from Singapore, Mr. Small; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. D. M. Young.

Per *Namsang*, from Singapore, Mr. Gerloff.

Per *Eastern*, from Kobe, Messrs. G. H. Smithers, W. Kennedy and S. J. Perry.

Per *Athenian*, from Vancouver, Dr. Beringer, Lieut. Garnett, R. W. F., Messrs. G. Walter, Bryant, Blom and Darloer.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Sydney, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Peck and child, Mrs. Augustina, Capt. McDonnell, Messrs. Grant, Sullivan, Thomson and Wilson.

Per *Shinano Maru*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. H. Campbell and two children, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. MacKay, Mr. and Mrs. H. White, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Freeman, Miss E. Pin, Messrs. A. J. Fisher, F. J. Todd, B. James and Jas. H. Meiklejohn; for Brisbane, Mr. and Mrs. Falconer.

Per *Diomed*, from Shanghai, Mr. Bell.

Per *Glenartney*, from London, Messrs. Wulf and Carroll.

Per *Wingsung*, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. W. S. Harling, W. Bow, F. Gibson, G. Gibson and B. Russell.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mrs. Forbes, Misses Woodward (2), Dr. P. S. Townsend, Messrs. J. L. Edwards, Phil Selner, B. Baldwin, Messrs. nar and Karl Buchwald.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, Mrs. H. T. Richardson and two children, Rev. and Mrs. Marsh and child, Mr. and Mrs. Hankin, Mrs. Carlin and four children, Misses Grant, M. Onslow and W. Sallman, Major Chapman, Lieuts. Armstrong and Bingay, Messrs. G. S. Wilson and F. M. Dominguez; from Yokohama,

Mrs. Jervy and son, Mrs. Craddock and two children, Dr. J. Jobling, Lieut. W. Caulfield, Prof. G. W. Sharp, Capt. G. Duff, Messrs. C. Batinger, H. B. Carter and H. T. Richardson; from Kobe, Mr. H. A. Field and Mr. A. S. Gaden; from Shanghai, Messrs. A. H. Ronnie, W. Stopani, G. E. Hall, A. Diniz, B. G. Tours and W. D. Craddock.

Per *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. and Miss Schoenemann, Inspector and Mrs. Michael, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. P. Xavier and Dr. Krieg; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham and Mr. J. Kolouovich; from Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Albart, Misses Campbell, Barton and B. L. Bells, Capt. J. C. Jensen, Messrs. J. Z. S. von Gross, M. Schwarz and E. Tyson Hutchins; from Foochow, Mr. E. Rozario.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Mrs. R. W. Borthwick and child, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Woodcock and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mrs. C. Komine, Lieut. P. H. Campbell, Messrs. A. Carlini, B. Fukuchi, S. Ochi, S. Yeguchi, R. G. Macdonald, Z. Shirasu, T. Shomura, H. Hirose, Haden, K. Shimada and Heyt Brown; for Thursday Island, Mr. H. Yokoyama; for Brisbane, Mr. Murphy; for Sydney, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Griffiths, Messrs. H. E. Good, Thomas McEbro, T. Matsumoto and B. Watsuo; for Melbourne, Mrs. Wm. Smith, Misses A. and L. Smith, Mr. J. M. Smith, Miss Scott, Hon. J. J. Casey, Messrs. Newton and S. May.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. D. Oliver, Messrs. W. S. Allen, T. R. Lewis, W. H. Ray, R. H. Munger, James Pinnock, D. H. Cameron, A. Nilsson, Wm. Scott, B. E. Hansen, J. G. Perfect, T. A. Stone and T. Bhowani Singh, Misses Annie Bates and H. Stone.

Per *Haitia*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Brattain and infant, Mrs. Fesler, Messrs. Edwards and McGregor.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Hon. and Mrs. H. C. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Sargent, Mrs. L. S. Kelly, Miss Kelly, Miss A. Coningham, Messrs. E. B. Mulem, G. Williams, G. Goldberg, M. B. Stone, A. W. Welton and L. Trimdad.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Davis, Mrs. Sutherland, Messrs. Whiteman Symes, C. C. Edwards, W. Burg, C. P. Gale, M. Samasuke, H. Koyama, K. Tokomatsu, J. Nayagiya and Hirasuna.

Per *Korea*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Crane, Mrs. Chas. Stewart, Miss E. Stewart, Lieut.-Comdr. and Mrs. J. F. Parker, Mrs. A. C. Parke, Miss G. Parke, Mrs. L. Z. Duke, Mrs. J. L. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Shaw, Mrs. C. E. Schmitt, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Dutton, Miss Dutton, Mrs. A. M. Clay, Misses Van Buren, E. Dennison, H. Gibbs and Adele Nott, Rev. A. Bealer, Capt. T. C. Ryder, Hon. J. Barrett, Messrs. J. R. Amory, Herbert Ashton, Robert McGreer, Chauncey Southern, W. Davidson, E. C. Freed, A. D. Gibbs, A. Mann, R. J. McCord, B. and C. Roth, K. Ishisaka, T. Oka, K. Nii, Jeffrey Williams, Arthur Garrels, Roy Stephenson, W. C. Finley, Oscar Gorrell, Chas. L. Hall, W. S. Reamer, Frank Vida and J. J. Racine.

Per *Hamburg*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Miss S. Huck; from Southampton, Mrs. E. James McDonald and family, Mrs. Bussel, Mrs. Cox, Messrs. E. A. Grigson, M. Leland and Callagher; from Genoa, Mrs. W. Taft and three children, Dr. E. M. Pallett, Messrs. Joh. Lauts, Kurt Stockhausen and W. Kruse; from Aden, Messrs. Jangsen, Lungpi, Longham and Julic; from Colombo, Mrs. Wiseman, Mrs. Sahuhowta and Miss Walker; for Shanghai, from Hamburg, Mr. and Mrs. Sefer and child, Mr. and Mrs. Schneider, Major Hofrichter, Dr. E. Hauer, Consul Dietrichs, Misses Helen Burmeister and E. Hoed, Mr. F. Block and family, Messrs. S. Lutkens, Philipp Sinn, Johan Weber, Rudolf Weber and H. Biehl; from Southampton, Mrs. Tours and two children, Mrs. E. Drake Brokman and child, Mrs. Franklin and child, Mrs. Bartley and three children, Mrs. Early and child, Dr. and Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Gillespie, Miss Kathleen Tattersall, Messrs. W. Solly, Neils Moller and A. Atkinson; from Antwerp, Mrs. Specht Gryp, Messrs. V. V. Ponpon and Peter Marshall; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Tuzek and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer

and child, Mrs. N. Linder, Mr. and Mrs. H. Klein, Mr. and Mrs. Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Living Learmouth, Mr. and Mrs. T. Sandberg, Misses Maria Petterson and E. and G. Linder, Consul H. v. Varchnien, Dr. Brander, Lieut. Bolling, Messrs. H. N. Anderson, Albrecht Schultz, Herman Fabig, A. Figge, E. Rousseau, R. de Luca, F. Loges, Matthews, Berzelius, H. Herliag, Alb. Frundt, Hein Fuhboth, Fritz Hackbarth and H. Seber; from Naples, Mr. and Mrs. N. d'Amora and Mr. A. E. Hobbins; for Nagasaki, from Genoa, Miss Else Wehner; for Hio, from Genoa, Misses Elly Evers and August Evers; for Yokohama, from Hamburg, Mrs. Paul Schramm; from Southampton, Major French; from Antwerp, Mr. A. Remy; from Genoa, Capt. and Mrs. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Komor and two children, Messrs. J. Megata, J. Korting, Paul Schramm and E. Becker; from Naples, Dr. Kashiwamura.

DEPARTED.

Per *America Maru*, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Hanish and infant, Dr. Hartsock and Mr. Max Michael; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Thomas and Mr. A. J. Bowie; for Yokohama, Messrs. T. Zone and Bamo Firth; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Shellner, Messrs. Ramon Reyer Hala, H. L. A. Jashne, B. Honig and J. C. Roberts; for Portland, Misses Colman and Nellie Sanderson.

Per *Yawata Maru*, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Meares, Mr. and Mrs. Freek, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hamaura and three children, Mr. and Mrs. C. Isoarashi, Mrs. O. Laubi, Misses J. C. Weir, Wienholt and Y. Ichinose, Messrs. Boyes Davy, Wiuholt, R. Koep, L. Aiba, T. Nagata and D. Minosaki.

Per *Ballaarat*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Gen. and Mrs. MacCall, Miss Bolton, Messrs. Tamguchi and Masuda.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Lieut. Leahy, Gunner Bone, Rev. R. Espirito and Mr. G. B. H. Webb; for London, Mrs. Hickman and four children, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Showell Plant, Mr. C. McL. Clear, Sub-Lieuts. Rawlings, Donnell, Sheeston Bell, Birkett and Coppin; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. M. J. Tyack.

Per *Zafiro*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Naylor and child, Miss E. Dalglish, Mr. and Mrs. S. Minematsu, Messrs. A. R. G. ise, E. J. Morse, L. E. Phipps and S. Odezuru.

Per *Yuensang* for Manila, Mrs. H. A. Field and infant, Mrs. and Master Jervy, Miss M. Onslow, Dr. J. W. Jobling, Messrs. G. F. Coard, F. J. Woodbridge, C. Bentinger, G. S. Wilson, M. B. Russell, Frank E. Dominguez, Geo. Schaefer, D. A. Avery, Guan Singh and Jorden Singh.

Per *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. S. Hankin, Messrs. C. B. Edmonston and Grosserte; for Colombo, Rev. and Mrs. C. Marsh; for Genoa, Lieut. F. von Paleske and Mr. F. Musmann; for London, Messrs. F. Fischer, J. Murchie, J. Bramwill and James Shipton.

Per *Java*, from London, for Hongkong, Capt. and Mrs. D. T. Tallock, Engrs. R. A. R. Meikloin and A. W. Littlewood, Fle t Engr. Mar-rack, Bos'n. E. G. Phillips and Mr. H. Pollock, K.C.; for Shanghai, Messrs. J. Y. Morrison and R. Morris; for Yokohama, Mr. and Miss Dinsdale; from Marseilles, for Yokohama, Mr. H. C. Allen.

Per *Awa Maru*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. W. Horn, S. Kishi, K. Sugano, B. Oita, S. Yamamoto and T. Ishu; for Singapore, Mr. K. Yakabe; for Colombo, Messrs. T. Satō and K. Iijima; for Marseilles, Mrs. Denning, Miss Yamato Denning, Messrs. B. H. Denning, M. E. Denning, E. H. Sundford, M. Nakayama and G. Saejima, Major O. Tamura, Capt. K. Nakagawa, K. Ugaki, Y. Okumura, K. Takunaga and T. Yamagaki; for London, Rev. and Mrs. Chappell, Mrs. C. Klier and four children, Misses Lily and Eva Seymour, Messrs. Chas. H. Seymour, C. E. Holwarthy and I. J. Smith and Deaconess V. Hyde.

Per *Eastern*, for Timor, Rev. M. B. de Jesus and Lieut. A. G. da Silva; for Sydney, Misses Armour, Campbell and Burnett, Messrs. Kennedy, Nelson, Perry and Pitcher.

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